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Amateur Radio

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INSTITUTE OF
AUSTRALIA

For the Experimenter
and Radio Enthusiast

1/-

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3503 Kc.	7021 Kc.	7126 Kc.	8500 Kc.
3509 Kc.	7022 Kc.	7130 Kc.	9125 Kc.
3511 Kc.	7023 Kc.	7134 Kc.	10 Mc.
3512 Kc.	7031 Kc.	7145 Kc.	10.511 Mc.
3515 Kc.	7032 Kc.	7156 Kc.	10.524 Mc.
3516 Kc.	7032.6 Kc.	7163 Kc.	10.530 Mc.
3528 Kc.	7048 Kc.	7174 Kc.	10.536 Mc.
3532 Kc.	7052 Kc.	7179 Kc.	10.544 Mc.
3539.3 Kc.	7062 Kc.	7202.3 Kc.	10.546 Mc.
3634 Kc.	7063 Kc.	8000 Kc.	10.563 Mc.
3640 Kc.	7064 Kc.	8017.5 Kc.	11 Mc.
3675 Kc.	7068 Kc.	8027 Kc.	12.803 Mc.
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	7089 Kc.	8092 Kc.	14.105 Mc.
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5000 Kc.	7093 Kc.	8171.250 Kc.	14.322 Mc.

We extend to our Clients A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

DECEMBER — — — 1954
Vol. 22 No. 12

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WI BROADCASTS

All Amateurs are urged to keep these frequencies clear during, and for a period of 15 minutes after, the official Broadcasts.

VK2WI: Sundays, 1100 hours EST, 7146 Kc. and 2000 hours EST 50 and 144 Mc. No frequency checks available from VK2WI. Intrastate working frequency, 7125 Kc.

VK3WI: Sundays, 1130 hours EST, simultaneously on 3573 and 7146 Kc., 51.016 and 146.25 Mc. Intrastate working frequency 7135 Kc. Individual frequency checks of Amateur Stations given when VK3WI is on the air.

VK4WI: Sundays, 0900 hours EST, simultaneously on 3560 and 14342 Kc. 3560 Kc. channel is used from 0915 hours to 1015 hours each Sunday for the W.I.A. Country hook-up. No frequency checks available.

VK5WI: Sundays, 1000 hours SAST, on 7146 Kc. Frequency checks are given by VK5MD and VK5WI by arrangements on all bands to 50 Mc.

VK6WI: Sundays, 0930 hours WAST, on 7146 Kc. No frequency checks available.

VK7WI: Sundays, at 1000 hours EST, on 7146 Kc. and 146.5 Mc. No frequency checks are available.

AMATEUR RADIO

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EDITORIAL

★

CHRISTMAS GOODWILL

Winter has barely passed us by before we have the annual catch-cry —only another 63 days to Christmas! The popular cry is taken up on all sides and once again—all too soon—Christmas is upon us with all its hurly-burly rush and tear, the two days' work that must be crammed into one, the last minute hustle for Christmas cards and presents, and perhaps the preparation for those long-awaited holidays.

Inevitably, however, the age-old sentiment and tradition of Yuletide retains its meaning in spite of the strain imposed.

We Amateurs, with only some 23 days to go, have a special interest in the goodwill of the season. Although many other institutions of a similar nature to our own also undeniably express their sentiments in the appropriate way, our own peculiar method is unique—the ability to communicate. For communication in whatever form it might take, broadens the outlook and breeds tolerance.

It is unfortunate that in this present era, "full" communication between all peoples of the world is, in some directions at least, taboo. Although at one time we could truthfully say "we Amateurs all batted in the one team," this is not strictly correct at present; and we feel in consequence that Amateur Radio is suffering momentarily from an International relapse.

We can, however, carry on that Amateur Spirit within our own sphere and promote the Amateur's fourth commandment—"The Amateur is Friendly." This arises not from the use of one's christian name—it goes much deeper—it is that leveller of all Amateur relations, the goodwill engendered by the welcome to the home of the mighty, the homely welcome to the shack of the humblest—the hand of friendship and goodwill that we literally radiate.

We might be thought quarrelsome by the outsider who did not know better, but when all is said and done, it is the relative few who often condemn the majority by not following the remainder of the Amateur's commandments. Such rebels and grousers are few, and it is these people who are not typical of the thousands of others who go about their hobby in a quiet and unobtrusive manner.

To the unfortunate few we say, may the spirit and goodwill of this festive season permeate your Scrooge-like feelings and join with the majority in deriving and striving for a little extra friendliness and goodwill in the season of Christmas that lies ahead.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO AMATEURS EVERYWHERE.

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE.

THE CONTENTS

AN ELECTRONIC KEYER

BY E. A. MARSTELLA,* VK2AEZ

SINCE the war, electronics have achieved considerable success in many different spheres and the Radio Amateur has benefitted by some of these achievements. The one that we are interested in is the Electronic Keyer.

Good operators were very much in the fore before the war, but these days Amateurs are not very much interested in c.w., preferring the use of phone as a medium, no doubt due to lack of practice or ability or both. Use of the hand key is a somewhat tedious task if used for a long time, taking quite a lot of practice and time to be versatile in speed and precision, and usually finishing up with a glass arm. The bug key overcame a lot of the tediousness of the hand key, but precision was usually at fault by using incorrect dot to dash ratio or visa versa.

The Electronic Keyer will fulfill or even surpass the difficulties found by other manual means of keying, but, of course, you must be its "master." Gone will be the days of sorry "missed this" or "missed that" and gone will be the "QLF" attitude from other operators. This Electronic Keyer is simplicity in itself, and being modified from an overseas design, is easy to build and get going and the components readily available.

CIRCUIT Referring to Fig. 1, it will be seen that it is simple and one of its main features is that the h.t. positive is earthed which, of course, grounds the paddle of the key (other keyers have their paddles at h.t. above earth) which is a good safety angle. Only one relay is used as compared with two or more with other keyers and the relay is not very critical provided it is reasonably sensitive to current changes.

V1 is the audio oscillator of which R2, R3, R4, L1, C1 from the oscillatory circuit. R5 is the key up plate load to give a smoother keying and is shunted by either portion of R1 when paddle has made the dash or dot contact. It is known that when the h.t. potential to an oscillator has been changed a different frequency will be the result, so by this means we can get two frequencies from the audio oscillator. If the potentiometer R1 is set in such a position and the paddle is in the dot position an audio frequency oscillation of some time interval will result, and when the paddle is in the dash position a lower frequency oscillation will result. By this we can see that the potentiometer setting of R1 is set to one side of centre causing h.t. potential on the plate of V1 to differ for a dash and a dot. This control is called the **dot-dash ratio control** and once its correct position has been found it is never further adjusted.

Having now obtained audio oscillations at two different frequencies from the audio oscillator to correspond to a dot and a dash, we now need the means of varying the rate of these two frequencies. Referring to Fig. 1, if R2 were to be made variable we could alter the time constant of the oscillatory circuit and therefore the speed could be altered. This control is called the **speed control.**

The inductance used in the oscillator at this station is a 10,000 ohm plate to plate speaker transformer, but anything push-pull audio should do provided it has sufficient inductance. The altering of either C1 or R4 will alter the time constant of the circuit, the larger the C or R, the slower the speed of the keyer. If bigger range of speed is needed, the speed control R2 could be increased to 1.5-2 megohms and C1 reduced. The speed of the writer's keyer has a range of 6-35 w.p.m.

There now appears on the cathode of V1 an a.c. pulse for either a dot or a dash and these pulses are used to trigger the first section of V2 or the relay tube.

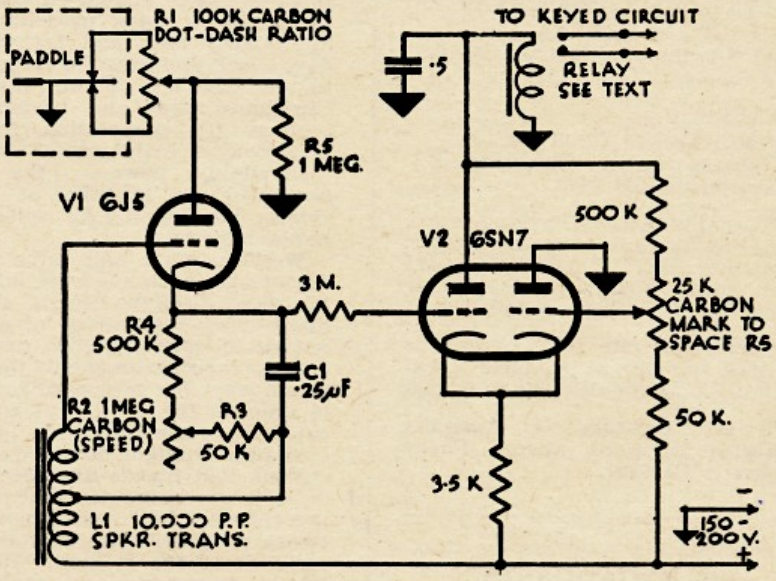


Fig. 1.—Circuit of Electronic Keyer.

The second section of V2 functions as a control tube for the first section by controlling the bias of that section, the response from the audio oscillator makes this necessary and the correct operation of the relay tube can be maintained by adjustment of R5. This control is called the **mark to space control** and together with the negative potential to the relay, smoother operation of the relay will result.

With unequal response from V1 the adjustment may be necessary when the speed control R2 is altered to a different speed by any great amount, otherwise dots and dashes may either sound clipped or made too long. Actually R5 needs very little adjustment at all speeds.

RELAY The most important component in the keyer is the relay and the final result will depend on this item. A large number of different types of relays are available in various types of disposal equipment and can be bought ex stock. P.M.G. type 3000, or **major** type, is about 2¼" high, and the other known as P.M.G. type 600, or **minor** type, which is about half the size of the 3000 type, are the best known. The more contact springs on the relay the less sensitive will be the relay. The relay only requires one set of contact springs "normally open" or "make." The coil resistance is not very critical as the adjustment of the **mark to space control** can compensate for different values of coil resistance. Any relay with a coil resistance of from 1000 ohms to 5000 ohms should be found satisfactory, on higher values of coil resistance the value of the **mark to space control R5** may need to be increased in value. Although only one set of "make" contacts are required, any relay having a different set-up of spring contact assembly can be used provided the relay is sensitive enough; the faster the keying speed, the more sensitive the relay has to be.

The dash character has to be three times that of the dot character for any given speed, consequently the armature of the relay does not travel as far for a dot as it does for a dash. The travel of the armature is adjusted by using the residual screw on the top of the armature or by bending the armature by trial and error until the contacts "make" dots on all speeds. Some relays have fitted buffer springs or buffer blocks or both and the return to normal of the relay armature is readily obtained. The relay used at this station is a type 600 of the older series, being neither fitted with buffer springs or buffer block, so the relay was mounted on a piece of aluminium bent into a right angle and the relay mounted in such a way as to be fitted inside of an MN26 i.f. can and screwed to the can, making it dust-proof, and a piece of sponge rubber was glued to the piece of aluminium bracket

* 64 Railway Street, Gosford, N.S.W.

behind the relay contacts which had the effect of cushioning the contacts, preventing excessive rubbing of the contacts which caused a metallic type of keying.

Ordinary contacts of a relay take approximately 150 Ma. for a single contact to 300 Ma. for the double contact type. The usual key click filter will, of course, be still needed. The capacitor across the relay is to by-pass the a.c. component, otherwise the relay will chatter.

PADDLE The next important part of the keyer is the paddle and can be mounted on the chassis or be a separate part of the keyer and mounted on the operating bench. If you have a bug key, it will be an easy matter to modify. Remove the spring dot contact on the bug and substitute a contact similar to that of the dash contact. The vibrating arm of the bug is made fast by screwing the adjusting screw at the end of the vibrating arm towards the arm so as to make it immovable.

A means of returning the paddle to its central position will be needed, but this will depend on the type of bug you have. Make sure that the dot and dash contacts of the paddle are insulated from each other and to the paddle, otherwise a continual dot or dash will result. If the paddle is "made" to the dot contact and held in that position, a series of dots will result until the paddle is released and the same will be the result if the dash contact is "made," except a series of dashes will be made. Avoid the use of bugs that have two paddles (one for the dot and one for the dash) as you may find that you can press both paddles together and the result will be a dash.

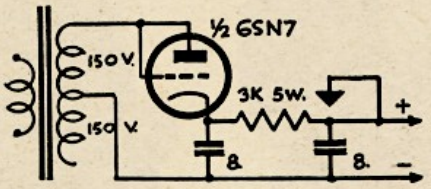
The system used by the writer is a piece of ½" x ¼" brass pivoted in the same manner as a bug arm is pivoted and mounted on a piece of bakelite or similar insulated material. On each side of the pivoted arm, a piece of ⅜" round brass is mounted at about ½" or so from the pivoted arm centre and to the rear of the pivot. The ⅜" brass is drilled and tapped to take a small screw at the correct height so as to give a dot contact on one side and a dash contact on the other side. Springs can be fitted over the small contact screw and insulated from the moveable paddle arm to prevent shorting the dot or dash contact, a nut on the contact screw to give the best spring tension and to bring the paddle to centre each time it is released is behind the spring. It will probably be necessary to use nuts to lock the both contact springs, otherwise they might loosen up.

Instead of the springs, a piece of flat spring could be attached to the end of the paddle to give the same effect as the springs and fastened to the bakelite base; the size of the spring will depend on the tension required. It should not be very hard to devise some scheme when you have the idea. A couple of pieces of bakelite can be fitted to the operating end of the paddle as in the case of the bug key and a reversing switch can be used if needed for the use of left handed operators.

POWER SUPPLIES For the power supply two types have been used at this station with equal success. In the half wave supply (Fig. 2) the 6J5 audio oscillator valve was replaced with a 6SN7 valve and one section was used as the audio oscillator valve and the other section was used as the rectifier.

In the full wave supply (Fig. 3) the 6J5 remained and a 6X5 valve was used as the rectifier valve.

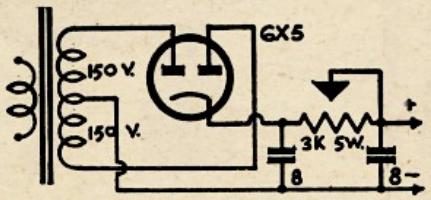
The transformer used was a small 150-0-150 v. at 30 Ma. Make sure that the electrolytics are insulated from the chassis, otherwise you will have a short circuit. The first electrolytic may not be necessary, depending on the type of transformer used. Output voltage of about 170-200 volts is all that is necessary for operation of the keyer. Perhaps there is an old "B" eliminator lying about which could be used.



HALF WAVE POWER SUPPLY
Fig. 2.

The complete unit with power supply was built on a chassis 8½" x 5" with a front panel 8" x 5½". On the front panel was mounted h.t. centre tap switch, speed control, mark to space control and the dot-dash ratio control. The dot-dash ratio control has the shaft cut off and a slot made for a screwdriver as this control, once its correct position has been found, is never altered unless circuit change has been made; if you care, it can be mounted inside the unit.

On the back of the chassis a terminal strip or a socket is mounted to take three leads from the paddle and two leads to the keying circuit in the transmitter, making five leads in all.



FULL WAVE POWER SUPPLY
Fig. 3.

CONCLUSION Having completed the keyer, the only adjustment needed is to get the **dot-dash ratio** correct in conjunction with the **mark to space** setting. Set the **speed** control about halfway and the **dot-dash ratio** control at about one-third of its travel; now depress the paddle into the **dot** position and adjust the **mark to space** control through its range until the relay operates, now move the paddle over to the **dash** position, it could be possible that the keyer is giving the reverse procedure, that is dashes instead of dots, and if this is the case reverse the dot and dash leads to the paddle. It should not be very difficult to get correct **dot-dash** ratio by ear or by using an ohm meter across the relay contacts.

All that is required is some practice by starting at a slow speed on an oscillator. Don't brag about sending at 30 w.p.m. if you cannot send at even 15 w.p.m. This electronic keyer is an acquisition to any shack. Here's hoping to see you all electronic keying on the bands one day.

— . . . —

LADIES BEWARE!

THE TALE OF THE PURLOINED TEASTRAINER

When the writer decided that the quality provided by a G.P.O. carbon microphone was not all that it might be, a crystal insert was obtained. Then began the search for a suitable container.

At teatime, while idly watching the XYL pour out the cup that cheers, the idea of using a teastrainer for the job was born. Later, when the coast was clear, the article in question was stealthily removed from the cupboard and taken into the shack. It was just the right size to carry the crystal insert

A piece of aluminium the size of the circular rim of the teastrainer was cut to provide a back. The insert was then fitted into the strainer facing outwards, a piece of rubber placed on its back and the aluminium back plate pressed on and fixed in position with self-tapping screws. Ordinary television coaxial cable, brought out through a rubber grommet, was used for the microphone lead and bound to the handle.

Some days later, after an exhaustive search had failed to locate the missing strainer, the lady of the house saw it in the shack. Then the OM really learnt the names his parents had forgotten to give him! However, a visit to the local emporium secured another for sixpence, but unfortunately the bunch of flowers and the box of chocolates bought to "soothe the savage breast" made the whole job rather more expensive than expected!

The moral for anyone who contemplates using a similar gadget for their crystal insert is—go and buy one; it will be cheaper in the long run!

—R.S.G.B. "Bulletin," June, 1954.

— . . . —

DX C.C. CERTIFICATES

It has been brought to the notice of Federal Executive that the DX C.C. Certificate will need to be reprinted in the near future, as stocks of the present one are now very low.

As this is a most sought-after award, it is imperative that the Certificate is worthy of its place of honour. Keeping this in mind, Federal Executive feels that a new design might be of interest to members and would be willing to print another now that this is due.

In order to encourage interest and competition for a suitable design, the Federal Executive will award a prize of Two Guineas to the entry which they consider most satisfactory for the Certificate.

Entries should be sent to the Federal Secretary of the W.I.A., Box 2611W, G.P.O., Melbourne.

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A quality Crystal Insert with "Zephyrfil" filter.

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Precision built Moving Coil Generator provides good quality reproduction.

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- **Excellent sensitivity.**
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AT5 REBUILT AND MODIFIED

BY A. W. WINTER,* VK5DR

MANY articles have been written on all types of disposals gear, but few, if any, have appeared in "A.R." on the AT5 transmitter, which is still available at a reasonable price. One was purchased some three years ago by the writer, and from it a cheap and efficient rig has been built.

As it stands, the AT5 is not an ideal transmitter from the Amateur's point of view, but with a few modifications can be quite useful.

Firstly the final, which is 807s in parallel, was built on a 17" x 10" x 3" chassis for rack mounting, also on the same chassis is the 807 buffer-doubler and a 6V6 buffer-doubler using the modulation tube from the AT5 for the latter.

The only alterations to the final were: Tuning condenser was cut down to 26 plates, the tank coil transferred to the junk-box, and appropriate coils wound for each band.

The screen supply was taken from the plate supply through a 30,000 ohm 25 watt resistor. A key jack was placed between the centre tap of R27 and R30.

In the 807 buffer-doubler stage, the tank circuit was replaced with a 50 pF. midget variable with coils wound to suit. The 6V6 buffer-doubler stage is more or less the usual.

Now to the VFO. This was completely wrecked, using the gang for antenna tuning. The 3.2 to 4 Mc. coil was used for the existing VFO by taking off turns until 27 remained, and then building the circuit of Fig. 1 on a separate small chassis with the dotted portion shielded by a small metal box. The 190 pF. silver mica condensers came from the low frequency oscillator unit.

With correct adjustment of the coil slug and C4, 3.5 to 3.6 Mc. can be spread over 180 degrees of the dial, which is far better than the original unit could do, i.e. 3.2 to 4 Mc.

I believe there are a good number of AT5-AR8 manuals to be had, but for those interested in the conversion, the circuit as used at this station is diagrammed in Fig. 2 with the numbers of the components shown to correspond with those clearly marked on the terminal strips of the AT5 itself. The very few additional parts that were required are shown with the component value.

After building this rig, quite a number of useful parts such as switches, ceramic coil formers, condensers, resistors, etc., remained for the junk-box or what have you.

So it can be seen that a VFO with bandspread, plus three stages, can be had for approximately £10, less power supply.

Prior to going off the air two years ago, through lack of suitable power, the writer used this rig with only 15 watts input to the 807s and worked 69 countries in 10 months of operation—so go to it chaps. Oh! I forgot to mention that besides the transmitter, I was using five wavelengths vee beams.

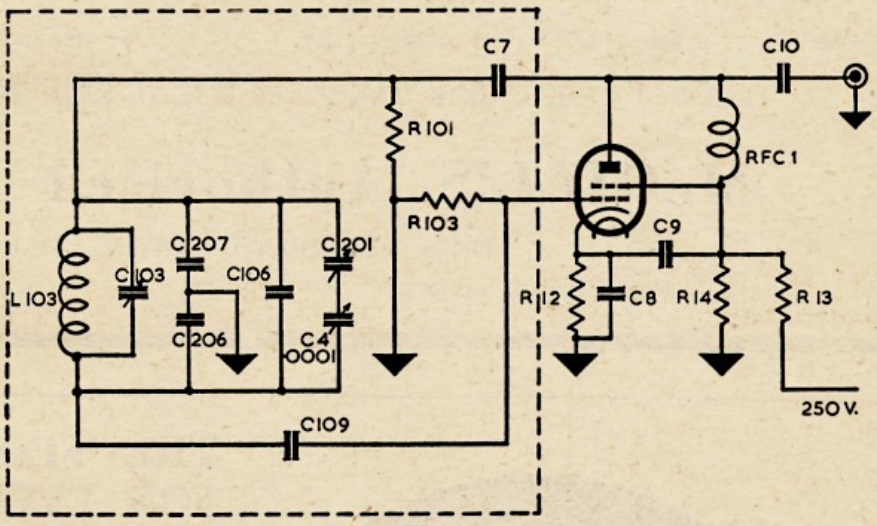

Fig. 1.
C207 and C206—190 pF. silver mica from low frequency oscillator.
L103—See text for alterations.

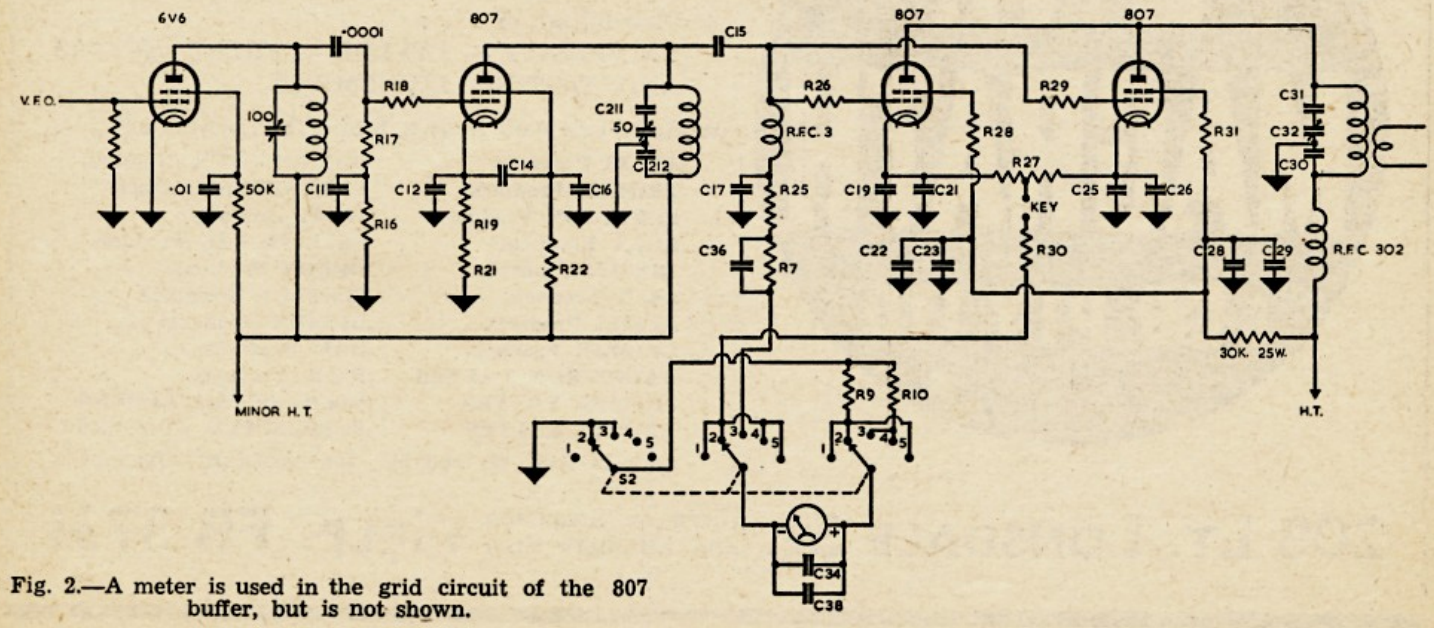

Fig. 2.—A meter is used in the grid circuit of the 807 buffer, but is not shown.

* Cape Borda Lighthouse, via Kingscote, Kangaroo Island.

THE COMPLETE AMATEUR

PART TWO

BY TOM ATHEY,* VK4UT, A.I.R.E. (Aust.)

SECTION FIVE

System for Monitoring Your Outfit

As this article will complete the series, I feel that it would be inadequate if an article on the monitoring of your rig was left out, so here are my suggestions to you.

For the c.w. man his requirements are fairly simple. To monitor the output it is necessary to feed part of your output back into your phones or speaker so that any chirps or birdies can be checked and eliminated. To do this, feed back a small portion of your output to a small battery receiver—a one valve will suffice. Build up a simple regenerative receiver using say a 1T4 as a triode. Coupling to the final may be obtained by using a pick-up loop located near your tank coil. Note.—As your tank coil has high r.f. voltage on it, care must be exercised to avoid accidents in coming in contact with it. This r.f. loop picks up the signal transmitted and allows you to hear what you are sending. The receiver can also be used as a means of monitoring your speech output, however it is not a very good method of checking a.m. to your final as no indication is given to distortion other than what you can hear.

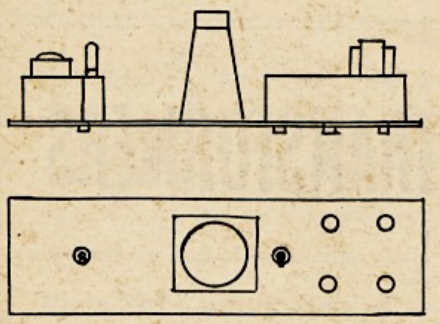

Fig. 1.—The front panel and location of main components.

For the amplitude modulations boys I suggest they build up a c.r.o. because it will not only give you a visual pattern of your output, but has many other uses around the shack. The system I intend to describe is a very small one, requiring very few parts and is intended to be mounted right into the rack. Thus by using the small audio oscillator described in a previous article, you can adjust your rig for maximum output free of distortion, or in other words 100 per cent. modulation.

By using the negative peak high level filter shown in this series' modulator, you can boost up the positive peaks and by using a clipper circuit in the speech amplifier you can flatten out those peaks with the result that you can improve your transmitter output power without increasing your input to the final. However, as far as the newcomer is concerned I think he should stick to the conventional method of obtaining 100 per cent. modulation.

The c.r.o. about to be described here will give—

- An indication of the percentage level of his modulation.
- A visual pattern of the waveform of his output.
- The instantaneous peaks, both positive and negative, which contribute so much to splatter.
- Whether he is over modulating or under modulating.
- The cost of the unit will be quite reasonable for the results he will obtain.

Before going on to the actual description of the c.r.o., a word in passing on another method of obtaining level indications. This unit is known as a modulation monitor with a flasher level indicator. This is the type used by most of the broadcasting companies and can be calibrated to show instantly whether the peaks are in excess of a predetermined level. However these units are much beyond the pocket of Amateurs.

The c.r.o. in this article is a 2" type. A 2AP1 will do nicely, or a 1 inch type will do if you mount it behind a magnifying glass. The rack size of the panel is 19" x 5¼" (see Fig. 1).

Referring to Fig. 2, it will be seen that the c.r.o. tube requires about 800 volts to make it operate. To get this voltage an ordinary replacement type transformer is used, the two windings of the secondary being used as a half wave rectifier. The valve used is a 2X2, fairly easily obtained from the various valve stores or from the advertisers in "A.R." The sweep voltage is obtained by using a small audio transformer having a turns ratio of 1 : 1.

Other points to note are that the panel is used to mount the components to, a small sub-chassis is used to house the wiring of the power pack and the sweep circuit controls are also housed in another sub-chassis attached to the other end of the panel. The c.r.o. tube is mounted in the centre of the panel and its socket is free and is over the pins like a speaker plug.

To support the tube get a mu-metal shield to fit the tube, solder retaining brackets to the wide end and bolt it to

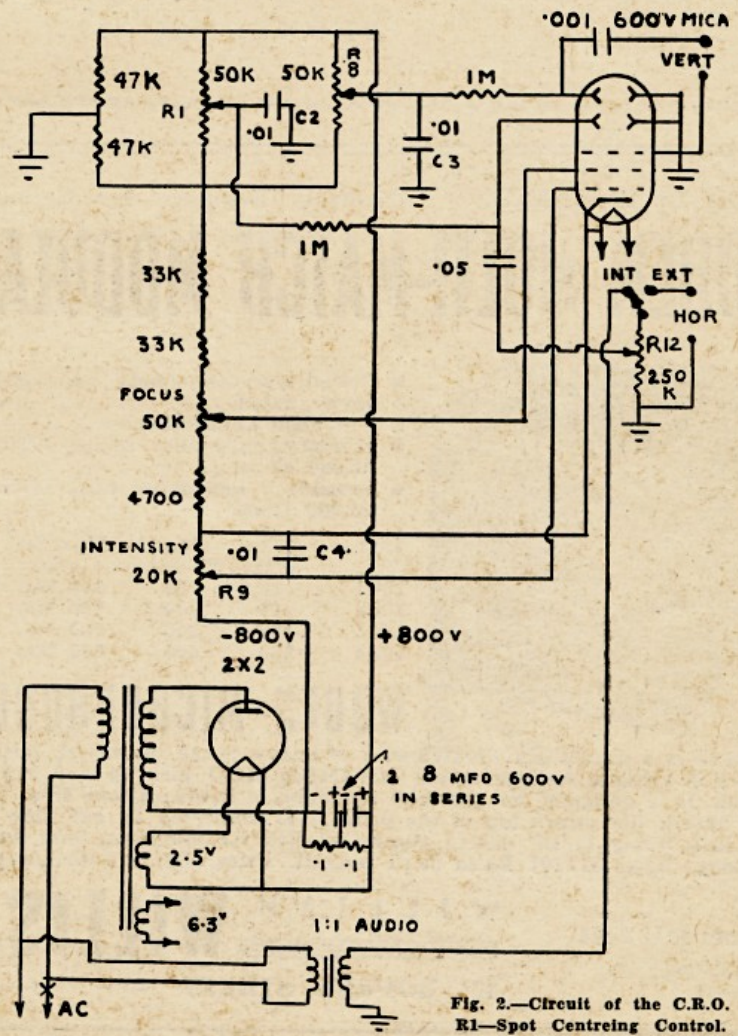

Fig. 2.—Circuit of the C.R.O. R1—Spot Centreing Control.

* Ex-Instructor Q'land Division W.I.A. Classes; 41 Mountford St., New Farm, Brisbane.

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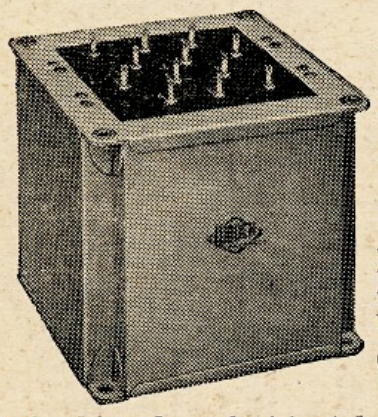
MADE IN ENGLAND! Carefully Designed for Accurate Matching and Maximum Efficiency—

WODEN MULTI-MATCH MODULATION TRANSFORMERS

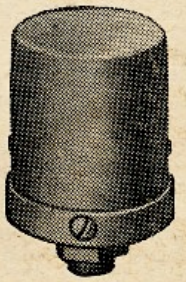


Features—

- Potted type compound filled (vacuum impregnated).
- Universal application.
- Primary impedance range—2,000 to 18,000 ohms.
- Secondary impedance range—200 to 21,000 ohms.
- Highest efficiency—lowest weight per watt.
- Easy to solder heavily silver plated tags.
- Above or below chassis wiring.
- Capacity—30 to 250 watts as under:

List No.	Audio Watts	Watts RF Input	Max. Sec. Current	Overall Size L.	W.	H.	Weight lbs.	ozs.	Price incl. Sales Tax
UM1	30	60	120 Ma.	3⅞"	x 3¼"	x 3⅝"	5	8	£6/9/11
UM2	60	120	200 Ma.	5¼"	x 4¼"	x 5¼"	11	8	£9/17/2
UM3	120	240	250 Ma.	5¼"	x 5¼"	x 5¼"	14	8	£12/2/5
UM4	250	500	400 Ma.	10¼"	x 6¾"	x 8¾"	41	0	on application

WODEN MICROPHONE TRANSFORMERS



Enclosed in a drawn heat-treated case of heavy gauge mu-metal, this type MT Microphone Transformer is suitable for use where MINIMUM HUM pick-up and MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY is required. It is designed for use with a moving coil microphone from 15-30 ohms impedance and on type MT101 the centre tap of the primary is connected to one side of the secondary and earth. One hole fixing (7/16" diam.) allows rotation for minimum hum pick-up. Dimensions: 1" dia. x 1½" long. Type MT101 Ratio 50 : 1 overall. Price, £3/14/6 including Sales Tax.

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the panel. If these directions are followed, you will obtain a pleasing panel appearance and have a modulation monitor well worth having.

The circuitry is easy to follow and should present no difficultiy to any Amateur. The condensers C2, C3, C4 are connected directly to their respective potentiometer rotor arms R1, R8, R9. These by-pass condensers are used to control and eliminate the a.c. component from the d.c. control circuits in the sweep circuits.

As stated before, the socket is not fastened to any of the structural parts of the chassis, but is used as a plug. The socket pins are covered by a metal shield with two holes cut into the sides to permit entry of the leads for filament and the d.c. leads. The latter is a shielded cable as are all terminal leads.

Both of the transformers are mounted externally to their respective subchassis. The four potentiometer controls and the sweep switch are mounted together and enclosed in a metal shield. Wiring of the power unit is also enclosed in its sub-chassis. Care in wiring the circuit should result in no mistakes as the circuit is very simple. Make sure that you get linear taper potentiometers for the four controls. I.R.C. make them, but you may have to order them as they are not a normal stock item.

USING THE SCOPE

To obtain patterns, it is possible to use the scope in two ways:—

1. To show a wave envelope modulation pattern, or
2. To show a trapezoid or wedge shape pattern.

Connections to obtain either of the patterns are shown in Fig. 4.

Wave Envelope Pattern.—Place a small pick-up loop in close proximity to the final tank coil and vary its position until you get a pattern as shown in Fig. 3b. When you speak into the microphone you will get a rapidily varying pattern envelope. When the peaks swing the pattern to twice the width of the unmodulated pattern, you have obtained 100 per cent. modulation as shown in Fig. 3d. Figs. 3c and 3e represent under and over modulation.

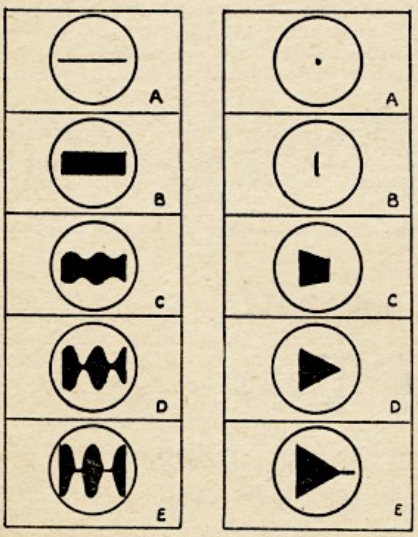


Fig. 3.—Left: Wave Envelope Patterns. Right: Trapezoid Patterns.
A—No Carrier.
B—Carrier.
C—Under Modulated.
D—100 per cent. Modulated.
E—Over Modulated.

If you feed your audio oscillator into the microphone input use the highest frequency that it has—3,000 cycles. Remember that the modulation percentage is based on the highest frequency being used as the frequency excursions will control the peak voltage developed. As Amateurs' voices rarely exceed 3,000 cycles, adjust your modulation for 100 per cent. at that frequency and all will be well. Connections to the c.r.o. are shown in Fig. 4a.

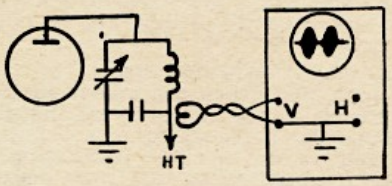


Fig. 4a—Connections for Wave Envelope Pattern.

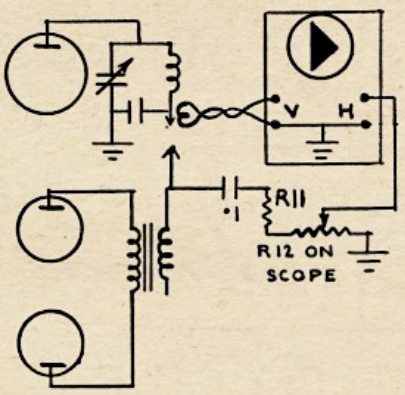


Fig. 4b—Connections for Trapezoid Pattern.

Trapezoid Pattern.—To obtain this pattern refer to Fig. 4b. Here you will see that audio from the modulator is required. The scope sweep switch is moved to external sweep position and the audio is fed to the horizontal terminals. When the two frequencies are placed on the scope plates, you get a triangular pattern on the scope screen. These patterns are shown alongside the wave envelope patterns (Fig. 3) and in a similar position to indicate the correct modulation percentage.

Warning.—It is necessary to use a resistor R11 between the horizontal input terminal and the coupling condenser from the modulator. The value of this resistor is arbituary, but if the horizontal control potentiometer is of 250,000 ohms, the resistor should bring up the total resistor value to 250,000 ohms for every 150 volts of modulation output.

For example, if the modulating voltage is 600 volts, the total resistance should be 600/150 times 250,000 ohms. This equals four times quarter megohm or a total of one megohm. Therefore the fixed resistor would be 750,000 ohms.

The blocking condenser should be 0.1 uF. or more, rated to carry the voltage safely. The rest of the set-up is obvious and with this set-up you should be able to control your modulation in such a way that you will avoid the pitfalls of "splatter."

HINTS AND KINKS

TESTING CONDENSERS

After building sundry pieces of apparatus with varying degrees of success, I found that most of my trouble was due to faulty condensers, so I decided to "Megger" each condenser and resistor prior to putting it to use. I was surprised to find half of the Condensers used in one article useless, even some of the new ones being faulty.

I then tested all the Condensers in the junk box, both paper and mica (many of my stock were taken from disposals apparatus), and found 40% were bad, so discarded them.

I used a 500 volt constant voltage "Megger," and any Condenser reading below 10 Megs. was considered unfit for most jobs (even the 10 Meg. ones were treated with caution). Many had resistances as low as 60,000 ohms, some 600 volt working being as low as this.

Admittedly the test voltage (500) was high, but when it is considered that many paper Condensers designed for a working voltage of 250 are tested with 600 volts DC, the "Megger" test is not quite so severe.

Since adopting the "Megger" test, most of the pieces of apparatus I build work first try.—VK5CH.

OPERATING A.C. RELAYS

A means of operating a.c. solonoids and relays from a lower voltage is to use a series resonant circuit. Resonance may be found by connecting the circuit to a very low voltage with a volt meter across the coil and adding capacity, at the same time opening and closing the armature by hand and noting the voltage reading. When resonance has been obtained, the capacity should be adjusted until resonance occurs when the armature is approximately three-quarters closed.

For an example, if a 415 volt coil is to be used on 240v. 50 cycles, a capacity of between 2 and 4uF. may be required with a voltage rating of at least 600 volts. A convenient voltage for testing is about 50v. When the circuit is put into service, the armature should close smartly passing through resonance and coming to rest with the correct operating voltage across the coil. Relays particularly suitable are direct-on-line contactors, which are often used for small motors.

SMALL FILAMENT TRANSFORMERS

A convenient and economical source of small filament transformers is output transformers. For an example, an impedance ratio of 5,000 : 3.7 will give a step-down of 240 volts to 6 volts. The current drain is limited though, to the diameter of the wire.

—R. K. Wilson, Burnie, Tas.

STABLE V.F.O. OPERATION AT 144 Mc.

BY DR. ROBERT H. BLACK,* VK2QZ

THE frequency determining device for the great majority of stable 144 Mc. transmitters is a quartz crystal oscillator operating at its fundamental frequency of 8 Mc. or on an odd overtone. V.f.o's. at 8 Mc. are not inherently stable and the fundamental frequency of oscillation must be lowered to 4 Mc. or even 2 Mc. to secure stability. This means that the frequency must be multiplied 36 or 72 times for output at 144 Mc. and any drift in the oscillator is multiplied 36 or 72 times at the output frequency. In addition, a special frequency range is required for the v.f.o. which differs from the range used for the usual high frequency Amateur bands.

The method described in this article for v.f.o. operation at 144 Mc. allows the use of output from a v.f.o. at about 3 Mc. and there is only a threefold multiplication of this signal frequency. This should give better stability at 144 Mc. than is obtained with the same v.fo. at 14 Mc.

Briefly, the procedure in the experimental set-up was to use a crystal oscillator and multiplier to take the signal frequency to 45 Mc. and then output from the v.f.o. at 3 Mc. was fed into the system. The added signal frequency was then 48 Mc. which, when multiplied three times, gave output at 144 Mc. Fig. 1 illustrates this procedure.

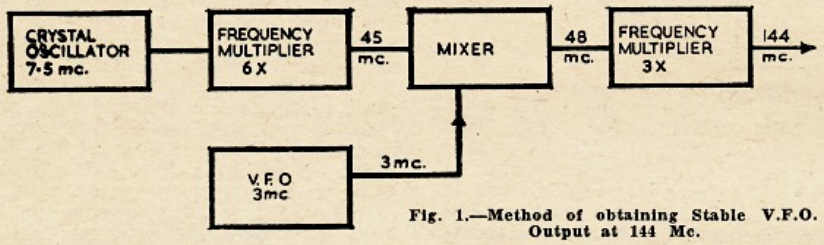


Fig. 1.—Method of obtaining Stable V.F.O. Output at 144 Mc.

The crystal oscillator and frequency multiplier stages are standard and require no detailed description; sufficient output for the purpose was obtained from a single 6J6 overtone oscillator and doubler. The v.f.o. in the experimental set-up was a Type 19 transmitter operatiing at reduced voltage—similar output would be obtained from a 6V6 in the output stage of a v.f.o.

The mixer stage was derived from the balanced modulator of single sideband technique. The circuit diagram (Fig. 2) shows the method of feeding the input signals at 45 Mc. and 3 Mc. into a single 6C4 which acts as a mixer. The output circuit of this tube is tuned to 48 Mc.

Obviously there are signals at frequencies, other than the one at 48 Mc., appearing as the result of mixing the two signals of frequencies 45 and 3 Mc., as well as the possible harmonics of these frequencies, so that some means of filtering out the unwanted signals is necessary.

In addition, the output at 48 Mc. is relatively small. These two features both contribute to the desirability of isolation-amplifier stages following the 6C4 mixer. Link coupling from the 6C4 to the next stage should reduce the harmonic content of the signal.

In the experimental set-up the two stages following the 6C4 used a 6AG5 and a 6AQ5. Sufficient output was available from the 6AQ5 for the use of a 5763 as the frequency multiplier for output at 144 Mc.

The use of a grid dip oscillator aided the identification of the various signals encountered in tuning.

Output from the 5763 is adequate to drive an 832 or it can be fed direct into the antenna as it was in the set-up described here.

* "The Chalet," 2 Yerton Ave., Hunter's Hill, New South Wales.

COMMENT

The method presented is by no means new; it has been used locally by McMahon (1951) for a frequency meter and has been described for v.f.o. operation at v.h.f. by French Amateurs (in a journal of the R.E.F., which is not available to the writer for reference).

The use of a v.f.o. eliminates the rather difficult task of locating a suitable 8 Mc. crystal.

With suitable v.f.o. output frequency, the crystal frequency can depend on the crystals in stock. The v.f.o. used for lower frequency operation with output at 3.5 Mc. could be used with a crystal at about 7.4 Mc.

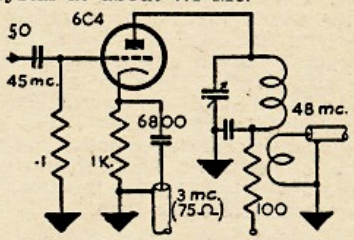


Fig. 2.—6C4 Mixer with grid injection of Crystal controlled signal at 45 Mc. and cathode injection of v.f.o. signal at 3 Mc.

The v.f.o. can be subjected to frequency modulation, using a diode, as reported by Taylor (1953).

During operation, the v.f.o. can be kept running continuously as it does not interfere with the received signal.

Netting is not a critical operation as it would be if the frequency of the v.f.o. were being multiplied 36 or 72 times.

The technique could also be employed for the construction of a heterodyne frequency meter for the 144 Mc. band; there would be adequate third harmonic output from the 6C4 mixer for this purpose.

This brief account is put forward for further development by interested v.h.f. enthusiasts, but the system as described provides very stable output at 144 Mc.

REFERENCES

McMahon, L. H., 1951. "Simple Frequency Meter for Amateur Bands." "Amateur Radio," Vol. 19, No. 6, p.3.

Taylor, A. F., 1953. "Diode F.M." "Amateur Radio," Vol. 21, No. 1, p.5.

WIN FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Congratulations to the South Australian Division for winning the Remembrance Day Contest for 1954 by a narrow margin from Western Australia.

Despite the rules which appear to favour the smaller States, the Contest continues to maintain its popularity. This year a total of 457 logs was submitted; there were also four listeners' logs. Many logs were not submitted and the number is estimated at 200, a shadow on what was otherwise one of the finest contests which we have had.

It was noted that stations in T.N.G., Papua, Admiralty, Macquarie, Heard and Cocos Islands participated and again these stations in the Territories gave the Contest added spice. Logs from Macquarie and Heard Islands were transmitted by radio to VK5JT and VK5MS respectively, and as was the case last year, all concerned must be congratulated on the effort they made in getting the logs to the Contest Committee in time for checking.

Propagation conditions prevented bands higher in frequency than 14 Mc. being used (a few contacts on 21 Mc. were made). For those who followed the prediction charts, the estimated times for the opening and closing of the bands was borne out in operating.

Although the number of logs did not vary from the previous year, the top logs generally showed a marked increase in the number of contacts and some scores were very close to 900. This year the rules provided for awards to the top phone, open and c.w. scorers in each Division. In addition, the Committee made awards to the top scorers in VK1 and VK9 call areas; and to the two listeners who submitted very large logs. This change in the awards considerably increased the time required for checking; for you will see on perusing the scores that the winners of the c.w. section did not come usually in the top six logs.

As received, the logs showed that Western Australia and South Australia had practically the same points. It was therefore necessary to make a complete check of **all** logs of these two Divisions to decide the winner. A really formidable task! A full check of logs of all contenders for individual awards was made and between 8,000 to 10,000 individual entries on logs were checked!

A very gratifying feature of the log checking was the effort by the contestants to make their logs easily read and assessed. The use of the standard log sheets assisted materially towards that end. The Councils of the various Divisions should also be pleased to note that the country members were well to the fore in the honours list.

The Committee desires me to record its appreciation of the efforts of the members in VK5 Division who freely gave of their time in the same spirit that the Contest was played. Those members, too, appreciated the very able way that the Contest Manager, Jim Vivian, VK5FO, organised their time to the best advantage. Our thanks also go to the South Australian Hon. Secretary, Reg. Harris, VK5RR, who received the logs from the post and got them ready for the Contest Manager.

And now it remains for me to thank you for what I consider was a really fine contest. Truly I can now say that the spirit of unselfishness and love which gave birth to the idea of the contest will stay alive.

"By your acts of grace,
They shall so live."

G. M. BOWEN, Chairman Contest Com.

THE TOP SCORERS

South Australia

VK5MS	895	Average Score ..	731.50
5RG	835	Licensees in State	347
5EN	782	Logs	66
5WC	673		
5FO	602	**Total Points**	**870.63**
5WO	602		

Western Australia

VK6FL	773	Average Score ..	629.83
6RU	740	Licensees in State	196
6GU	642	Logs	68
6DX	634		
6MK	513	**Total Points**	**848.35**
6TK	477		

Tasmania

VK7DZ	631	Average Score ..	515.50
7AI	612	Licensees in State	107
7PM	583	Logs	43
7WN	501		
7SF	421	**Total Points**	**722.66**
7LJ	345		

Victoria

VK3ATN	897	Average Score ..	609.17
3ADW	667	Licensees in State	949
3FH	606	Logs	122
3HG	552		
3ALQ	489	**Total Points**	**687.48**
3XK	444		

Queensland

VK4SF	699	Average Score ..	560.17
4PQ	590	Licensees in State	318
4FP	548	Logs	49
4AB	531		
4EC	510	**Total Points**	**646.48**
4TN	483		

New South Wales

VK2AMR	613	Average Score ..	559.00
2JU	588	Licens. in State	1030
2AHH	575	Logs	80
2RS	536		
2GW	535	**Total Points**	**602.42**
2AKV	507		

AWARDS

Open

VK1AC	996	VK5RG	835
2AHH	575	6FL	773
3ATN	897	7OM	313
4SF	699	9DB	531

Phone

VK2AMR	613	VK6DX	634
3ACE	426	7DZ	631
4PQ	590	9FN	531
5MS	895		

C.W.

VK1GA	246	VK5KU	352
2XZ	325	6EZ	141
3ZO	201	7LJ	345
4WH	211	9WZ	105

Listeners

F. H. Price, 656; N. G. Clarke, 585.

POINTS CLAIMED AND ALLOWED

State	Claimed	Allowed
VK2	3508	3354
VK3	3736	3655
VK4	3450	3361
VK5	4554	4389
VK6	3980	3779
VK7	3155	3097

OTHER LOGS

TERRITORIES

VK1AC	996	VK9DB	531	VK9WZ	105
1GA	246	9FN	531	9WG	71
1DJ	180	9SP	243	9HI	57
1DY	42				

NEW SOUTH WALES

VK2BO	383	VK2AVS	139	VK2ARO	38
2ZY	376	2AHI	137	2VC	36
2BQ	349	2AQH	130	2ASW	36
2AAB	333	2GI	128	2AFA	33
2XZ	325	2QS	125	2VN	33
2AJO	295	2AAJ	121	2BW	32
2VU	293	2IC	99	2ADL	31
2OE	258	2VW	91	2ACN	30
2EL	252	2FM	89	2AGJ	30
2ASA	246	2AJS	81	2OA	30
2XQ	238	2JY	80	2EI	26
2APP	231	2YB	78	2AOQ	25
2OT	215	2AUP	77	2RA	25
2AWQ	208	2ASE	76	2AUA	25
2QL	205	2ATA	75	2AWG	24
2AYS	191	2AGI	70	2ZQ	23
2ABE	188	2PM	67	2APQ	20
2SR	178	2JF	55	2BG	20
2AHP	174	2PU	45	2QZ	20
2FA	174	2AJQ	41	2PL	16
2OY	166	2AWN	41	2WI	14
2AHM	164	2APL	40	2AXZ	13
2PN	155	2FZ	39	2ADT	12
2ACD	147	2JA	39	2CF	10
2PV	145			2AVG	9

Victoria

VK3ADI	431	VK3WM	106	VK3ACJ	38
3ACE	426	3LV	105	3FA	35
3AFO	426	3AJP	102	3DG	35
3XB	425	3AWB	98	3RH	35
3JI	355	3ALK	98	3TO	34
3ZA	354	3AHF	97	3ACX	31
3OM	346	3YS	88	3TB	31
3ATR	325	3SX	88	3SS	31
3UR	303	3GG	87	3VQ	29
3AJU	272	3TX	83	3LR	28
3KC	263	3ALY	82	3TF	27
3QK	249	3JE	75	3ARJ	26
3AKO	249	3OZ	75	3ALI	26
3ALP	239	3AJA	74	3FD	24
3ACN	239	3YQ	73	3WY	24
3WQ	229	3ARL	71	3AIM	23
3AGD	218	3AEH	70	3PG	23
3ZO	201	3KR	69	3ANJ	22
3DU	197	3AWS	69	3AHK	22
3DY	196	3ALE	69	3QU	22
3JC	196	3AXR	68	3AFP	21
3ANO	189	3ARV	68	3QZ	21
3YV	173	3ADU	66	3II	20
3MC	171	3PL	63	3XH	20
3CX	171	3ABH	60	3BQ	19
3AJG	163	3VZ	59	3IE	18
3AZW	156	3AFF	57	3HK	17
3PR	155	3AKW	53	3AID	17
3RN	154	3SK	50	3CE	16
3PA	147	3AMT	47	3AXM	15
3AGV	143	3DQ	45	3ZM	14
3ZV	138	3AXX	45	3APF	13
3GE	137	3ID	44	3JO	13
3HE	128	3NF	43	3AAP	12
3RV	128	3ZU	43	3ABA	12
3ZS	124	3ZC	42	3OJ	12
3ATK	124	3ALD	40	3IK	10
3RJ	108	3AGP	40	3XJ	10
3AHH	108			3AVM	7

Queensland

VK4FU	479	VK4JD	93	VK4AW	24
4DI	438	4OR	81	4PA	24
4ZB	379	4GG	79	4ZL	22
4TY	361	4HZ	52	4HM	21
4HG	354	4AO	48	4XL	20
4RT	330	4DO	46	4ZM	17
4CC	275	4RW	44	4KS	15
4ZP	221	4YA	34	4XG	14
4WH	211	4LE	31	4FT	11
4JE	122	4NJ	29	4IC	10
4JF	116	4XY	29	4ZZ	9
4VJ	108	4CJ	28	4BG	7
4FB	103	4YS	27	4MT	6
4PT	105	4RE	25	4BY	6
		4NG	25		

(Continued on Page 12)

AMATEUR CALL SIGNS

FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1954

ADDITIONS

VK—

New South Wales

2WK—A. J. B. Kelso, Wambrook Radio Station, R.M.B. 6A, Adaminaby Road, Cooma.
2AAV—A. I. Dunnicliff, 69 Duff St., Broken Hill South.
2ADI—D. E. Sidler, 498 William St., Broken Hill.
2AIR—A. J. Smith, 19 Blenheim St., Croydon Park, Sydney.
2ANZ—J. P. Shortall, Station: 21 Orwell St., Potts Point, Sydney; Postal: P.O. Box 3408, Sydney.
2ASG—E. K. Broadbridge, C/o. Radio Station 2GF. Grafton.
2AWE—R. M. Weston, 273 Anzac Pde., Kingsford.
2AWM—T. S. Mayne, 15 Marguerette St., Ermington.
2AWR—W. A. Rowse, 28 Central St., Broken Hill South.
2AZB—J. K. W. Bork, 42 Queenscliff Rd., Manly.
2AZD—J. W. M. Dodds, 179 St. James Rd., New Lambton.
2ZAB—W. T. Boon, Bunnerong Rd. and Franklin St., Matraville.
2ZAC—W. R. Cox, 44 Park Rd., Hurstville.
2ZAH—W. H. Harder, Flat No. 6, Royal Building, Argent St., Broken Hill.
2ZAK—D. B. Garlick, 70 Cavendish St., Stanmore.
2ZAR—R. A. Ridgley, 10 Curtin Ave., Abbotsford, Sydney.

Victoria

3AD—W. A. S. Butement, 5a Barry St., Kew.
3AIN—I. Grant, R.A.S., R.A.A.F., "Frognall," via Canterbury.
3ARI—R. M. Tutton, 65 Humffray St., Ballarat.
3ATS—K. E. Semmler, Station: "Wyuna," Murtoa; Postal: Box 26, Murtoa.
3ZAL—R. A. Foot, 43 Munro St., Ascot Vale.
3ZAX—R. McPherson, 43 Ballarat Rd., Footscray, W.11.
3ZAY—D. F. Cooper, St. Mary's Vicarage, Glen Eira Rd., Caulfield.
3ZAZ—A. W. D. Wilson, "Bundorant," Glenthompson.

Queensland

4EN—E. D. Neale, 38 Felix St., Wooloowin, N.3, Brisbane.
4SO—J. S. O'Rourke, 41 Robertson Ave., Margate Beach.
4ZAR—N. A. Roberts, 41 Kent St., Rockhampton.

South Australia

5RL—R. L. Larsson, Gorge Rd., Athelstone.
5TS—Dept. of Civil Aviation Technicians Training School, Adelaide.
5ZAC—E. L. Murray, 55 Dover St., Unley.
5ZAE—A. E. R. Wood, 9 Edwin Ter., Gilberton, Adelaide.

Western Australia

6ZAB—H. Iffla, 32 Boulder Rd., Kalgoorlie.
6ZAD—A. R. Deverell, 20 Streatley Rd., Rivervale.
6ZAE—L. K. Earp, 85 Railway Rd., Kalamunda.
6ZAK—D. J. Knox, Station: Railway Cottage, Subiaco; Postal: P.O. Box 13, Subiaco.
6ZAT—L. N. Tate, 28 Kitchener Ave., Bayswater.

Tasmania

7ZAD—R. D. Nicholls, 30 Pearl St., Wivenhoe.
7ZAM—J. R. Milway, Cottage 68, Tarraleah.

Territories

9BP—B. P. O'Connor, Station: Third St., Baroko, Port Moresby; Postal: C/o. P.O. Box 38, Port Moresby.
9CR—C. W. H. Rasmussen, C/o. Australian M.A.F. Building, Wewak.
9ZAL—R. F. Lloyd, Dept. of Works, Single Men's Quarters, Paga Hill, Moresby.

ALTERATIONS

VK—

New South Wales

2CG—476 President Ave., Kirrawee, via Sutherland.
2DZ—28 Ella Street, Adamstown, Newcastle.
2MA—228 Homebush Road, Enfield.
2TS—S.S. "Iron Derby," C/o. B.H.P. Ltd., Newcastle.
2VC—99 Flora Street, Sutherland.
2AEI—Station: King St., Narrandera; Postal: P.O. Box 118, Narrandera.
2AFX—15 Harris Street, Maryville.
2ASL—369 Sydney Road, Balgowlah .
2AWP—Wirrialpa, Hernani, via Armidale.

Victoria

3EZ—252 Waiora Road, Macleod.
3IR—10 McLean Street, Yarrawonga.
3NO—7 Munro Street, Macleod.
3AKC—31 Irving Street, Wangaratta.
3APN—Boldings Rd., North Hazelwood, via Morwell.
3AWN—302a Park Street, South Melbourne
3ZAF—164 Middleborough Road, Blackburn.

Queensland

4DG—Portable: 18 Griffiths Street, New Farm.

South Australia

5CX—51 Murray Street, Lower Mitcham.
5DT—Main South Road, Reynella.
5FN—1 Fonthill Court(, North Salisbury.
5GK—134 Ninth Street, Salisbury.

Western Australia

6GK—161 Wylam Road, Cheetara, Collie.
6LL—28 Withnell Street, East Victoria Park.

Tasmania

7WI—Station: 147 Liverpool St., Hobart; Postal: G.P.O., Box 371B, Hobart.

DELETIONS (September)

New South Wales: VKs 2NB (now operating under VK2LP), 2OZ (now operating under VK2ADC), 2ANB, 2APG, 2AVH (now operating under VK3VB), 2AXU (now operating under VK3XU).
Victoria: VKs 3QK, 3AWD.
Queensland: VKs 4MI, 4WP.
South Australia: VKs 5AW, 5BI, 5OU.
Western Australia: VK6HW.
Territories: VK9AD.

DELETIONS (October)

New South Wales: VKs 2RI (now operating under VK3ARI), 2WB, 2ABK, 2AIW, 2AQL.
Queensland: VK4MU.
South Australia: VKs 5DE (now operating under VK2ADI), 5PC.
Territories: VK9YY (now operating under VK2AIR).

R.D. CONTEST RESULTS

(Continued from Page 11)

South Australia

VK5JN	552	VK5BZ	158	VK5CJ	37
5HI	452	5PM	151	5XU	35
5GW	439	5FQ	140	5MD	33
5KE	374	5BY	123	5DF	27
5AX	357	5JH	117	5TD	26
5KU	352	5RK	106	5EA	23
5LD	328	5BG	103	5RI	23
5LQ	256	5TL	101	5SL	22
5JT	254	5FD	100	5XA	20
5EF	248	5FJ	97	5CH	20
5DK	228	5AV	95	5UX	19
5OK	197	5PB	76	5CY	19
5ON	183	5HM	73	5JO	18
5LB	182	5KF	70	5CA	18
5FM	182	5WI	63	5LL	17
5AP	180	5ZL	53	5RR	16
5XO	172	5TJ	40	5TW	15
5MZ	169	5KY	40	5WM	15
5KW	165	5OR	39	5CR	13
5CE	163	5JG	38	5MA	9

Western Australia

VK6KJ	349	VK6TB	29	VK6WI	16
6NF	247	6AG	28	6GM	16
6JG	146	6BS	28	6WT	15
6EZ	141	6BO	27	6SR	15
6FD	108	6MO	26	6FT	15
6LU	108	6SF	24	6GA	14
6TY	100	6AW	23	6EH	14
6LJ	98	6XG	23	6VM	14
6MB	84	6WG	23	6GH	14
6WJ	74	6LM	23	6HR	14
6WZ	74	6ZI	22	6FR	13
6GY	66	6EC	21	6JS	13
6ZZ	54	6HS	20	6KU	13
6WW	47	6RO	20	6OR	12
6BC	38	6SJ	20	6JK	11
6RS	34	6JP	19	6XF	10
6FB	34	6JW	18	6RK	10
6RT	34	6AP	18	6PW	9
6RW	33	6KW	18	6LL	8
6CC	32	6MR	17	6BG	7
6UF	30			6HC	7

Tasmania

VK7GM	316	VK7RX	98	VK7XW	34
7JO	314	7HB	89	7NB	29
7OM	313	7CA	89	7JD	18
7DW	294	7RY	73	7CF	17
7WA	286	7RM	62	7HF	17
7DR	224	7AG	59	7GR	17
7YY	176	7BR	55	7AB	14
7RL	165	7AL	51	7LL	13
7LZ	143	7BJ	44	7WI	13
7SD	140	7RK	43	7SR	11
7JP	140	7LE	42	7BH	10
7DS	99	7RT	40	7AX	8
		7KM	39		

LISTENERS' LOGS

F. H. Price	656	D. Rankine	178
N. G. Clarke	585	E. W. Trebilcock	58

N.S.W. SOUTH WESTERN ZONE CONVENTION

TUMUT, OCTOBER 30-31

This Zone Convention was very well attended and good weather was experienced; a good time was had by all and the Committee of the Zone would like to extend their thanks to all who made the trip, with a special mention for the Newcastle boys accompanied by 2EO.

On Saturday afternoon we got away to a good start with an organised tour of the beauty spots of Tumut, the visitors being most impressed with the beauty spots of the district and the splendid panorama. The evening programme was also a success, starting off with the opening of the Convention by the President of the N.S.W. Division, Jim 2YC, who officially welcomed all visitors. Films were shown by Alf 2BW, from Wagga. Next we had the novelty events such as Pick a Voice, Pick a Tune, and Pick a Box for which Geoff 2BQ did a good job as compere. Further films were shown by 2BW, at the conclusion of which we were shown some really fine slides of the Snowy River Scheme and views of Tumut and district by Mr. Dick Leck, Fire Officer of the Forestry Dept. stationed at Tumut. A very enjoyable evening was concluded with a fine supper, all then adjourned to hotels and homes a little tired after the day's activity.

Sunday commenced with a 144 Mc. Tx Hunt; 2ZAA operated the hidden Tx. Much to the surprise of everyone, the Hunt was won by 2AJO (beam operator) and 2AQE (driver), who just managed to find the elusive tx just as 2ZAA announced that he was closing down. Other contestants found the going tough in the Tumut Hills, but perhaps we can call the win "beginners' luck." The next event held was the Scramble, which resulted in a win for 2EO and his Hunter Branch assistants.

The Convention concluded with afternoon tea and a general rag chew, many and varied being the conversations. Special mention must be made of the work of the ladies for their effort in serving the refreshments and thus our thanks go out to Mesdames Weeden, Savage and Misses Jean Piper and Rosalind Weeden.

Those present at the Convention were as follows: 2BW, Wagga; 2RS, 2EU, Albury; 2YC, 2EO, 2VC, 2YB, 2LQ, 2MI, 2GT, 2IQ, Sydney; 2OT, 2XT, 2AOR, Newcastle; 2PL, 2AXD, Griffith; 2AJO, 2AQE, Coolamon; 2BQ, 2PN, 2ZAA, Tumut; 2ARD and Andy Kelso, Cooma. Associates present were Stan Albey, Coolamon; E. Savage, B. Fleck, J. Lovell, J. Smith, L. Ashton, G. Harriman, K. Wilson, all from Griffith; and Ces Cronin, Sydney. Mesdames Moye, Corbin, Weeden, Savage, Harriman, Cahill (Snr.), Phipps, Haberacht, Miss Piper and Miss Weeden.

Results of competitions: Pick a Tune 2ZAA, Pick a Tone Cec Cronin, Pick a Voice 2PL, 144 Mc. Hunt 2AJO/2AQE, Scramble 2EO and the Hunter Branch boys, winners of the Blindfold Contest, 2IQ 6 mins., 2YB 4 mins.

Finally we must congratulate Geoff 2BQ and Ross 2PN on a really fine job of organising this Convention, thanks from us all.

FIFTY MEGACYCLES AND ABOVE

NEW SOUTH WALES

The October meeting of the V.h.f. Group was attended by 47 members and visitors. The main interest of the evening was a resume of the Spring Field Day activities held on October 3. Bob 2OA mapped out the various routes and locations of all stations taking part in the relay, while John 2ANF gave a word picture of the proceedings for the day giving details of times taken to pass the message through to VK3WI and VK5, together with other points of interest which had been conveyed to him from 2WH and other country stations.

The Divisional President, Jim 2YC, then read the news item that the A.B.C. had included in their news bulletin. This was followed by recording on tape a brief description by each station operator present, who had taken part in the hook-up, of their gear used, location, contacts made, stations heard, weather conditions, and other points of interest.

The Chairman of the V.h.f. Group, Perce 2APQ, read and presented the Divisional President, Jim 2YC, with an official record of the event. The remaining portion of the tape was devoted to comments from those who did not actually take part in the hook-up. A re-play of the tape has since been heard by members who agree that it is a very good recording which will be sent to any zone or group who would be interested.

A visitor to the meeting was Ian 2JI, who gave details of the Trafalgar Day celebrations to be held at Garden Island. Bob 2OA agreed to take his 2 mx gear down to give an additional frequency for 2ZAN to operate on in the radio section of the display. The result was very pleasing, contacts with a number of 2 mx home, portable and, as Ted 2ABO classed himself, "mobile marine" while operating on a launch cruising around the harbour. Appreciation has been received from the Navy for the co-operation which members gave.

On Sunday night, 24th October, a one-hour 144 Mc. Scramble was held and resulted in 24 stations taking part. The results were 2AJZ, 2ANF (21); 2JX, 2XX, 2CE (20); 2HE, 2APQ (19); 2OA (18); 2LG, 2ALO (17); 2ALJ, 2WJ, 2ABO (15); 2HO, 2AZK (14); 2PF, 2ACK (13). This was a very good effort as Hugo 2WH, at Forbes, and Doug 2ASA, at Wyong, joined in. Maybe we will be soon able to hold a State wide Scramble.

On Sunday, 31st October, a 2 mx link was established between Sydney and Tumut where the South Western Zone were holding their Convention. This proved that a reliable link can be established from Sydney to Forbes, to Tumut and return without any difficulty.

With the increased activity in country areas, those operating in Sydney and near Sydney areas are reminded of the gentleman's agreement to keep the portion of the band from 144 to 144.1 Mc. free for country stations who wish to contact Sydney, as a strong local station would blanket a weak signal and might prevent some of the country stations from making a long awaited contact. Country stations operating regularly on this portion of the band are 2WH at Forbes, 2AGY Newcastle, 2GU Canberra.

50 Mc. has become a little more active. Ted 2XX now has his 6 mx beam on top of his new tower and is renewing old contacts, while 2HO, 2HE, 2JH, 2ABH, and 2ANF are now operating on the band.

Here is a note from Adrian 2HE who suggests **that in view of the fact that a considerable number of stations throughout Australia and New Zealand operate only on 6 and 2 mx, a plea is made to fully exploit the 6 mx band openings before and after the Ross Hull Contest so that an opportunity is afforded for Interstate exchange of ideas and discussion on the year's activities on the v.h.f. band.**

In regard to further long-distance 2 mx links, the V.h.f. Group would like to hear from stations who would take part in a northern link through to VK4. So what about it Newcastle and points north? Maybe we will be able to put a link into Yurrango similar to the one to Tumut.

We hear from Hugo that 2ALX at Bathurst is getting gear together for 2 mx and should be on soon, while 2EI from Parkes is moving his QTH to Sydney. A new station welcomed to the band is Bob 2ZAR; he is located at Abbotsford and is using phase modulation, his frequency is approx. 144.5 Mc. We also hear that Bert 2CI and Stan 2EZ are interested in 2 mx mobile and will soon be taking part in field events.

Sid 2AVK at Katoomba has his 2 mx beam and rx in operation and is working on his 100w. tx. We will be pleased to hear Sid back on the band. I would like to have more news from the country districts for inclusion in these notes, so what about it chaps?—2APQ.

VICTORIA

The highlight of the v.h.f. activity in Victoria was the special Fox Hunt arranged for members of both the Upper and Lower State Houses. Four members, together with representatives of the Press and the A.B.C., participated. Several flashlight photographs were taken at the start and several of the gang were interviewed by the A.B.C. reporter. Two short hunts were arranged for this occasion with our visitors disbursed between the fox car 3LN and the hound cars of 3VZ and 3YS. The Parliamentarians changed positions for the second hunt so they could have the opportunity to view the hunt from both the hound and the fox point of view. On the first run 3ZAA was successful, followed by 3ALY and the 3YS-3ABA combination. Jack 3VZ, with the members aboard, was the last to come in, however on the second run he made amends and was first to catch the fox, followed by 3YS. The final location was at the home of Russell 3SX who demonstrated some d.c. activity. The evening concluded with a very excellent supper and the charming hospitality of Mrs. Bradshaw and her two daughters made the evening a very enjoyable one for those present. The members in their reply of thanks congratulated the Institute and stressed its value to the State.

A DX session is now held within the State every Thursday evening between 8 and 9 p.m. This is gradually gaining favour and twenty-six stations were logged during that hour one week. The v.h.f. meeting this month took the form of a lecture by Graeme 3ZAA and Norm Dench, who demonstrated their mobile gear by working 3ALY mobile. A point of interest was the fact that Norm had placed the fields in parallel on an 18 volt i.f.f. genemotor working on the 12v. car system and found that it produced 25 per cent. more voltage when wired in that way. It had run for 10 hours continuously during the last field day with no material damage to the genemotor.

3BQ has made several contacts with 7LE during the month. With rising temperatures and a big influx of stacked beams and 60w. finals installed during the winter, VK3 Group anticipate some really excellent DX on the band during the coming summer season. Nineteen stations are active in the Western District and some forty-eight in Melbourne so a great deal of activity seems to be assured.

The V.h.f. Group gave the lecture at the general meeting in November. 3LN started the night with reception of mobile station 3YS, then followed a demonstration of a small one tube converter into an AR7, this was described by Berry 3APB. Next a crystal locked converter was described by Jack 3AIK, then Jack 3VZ and Norm Dench described their mobile equipment. 3LN wound up the evening with a demonstration of beam antennae using a microammeter projected on to a screen. The many inquiries to the exhibitors showed the interest of the members.

The Group is planning a series of field days for the coming season, the exact dates will be notified in the 3WI Sunday broadcasts. These field days make an excellent chance for real DX working and have the additional advantage that you may please yourself when you go portable on the band. Being able to do so is very much appreciated, and if the authority to do the same on the lower frequency bands was granted, the use of the full range of frequencies would give more opportunities for portable operation. It is very nice to be able to make arrangements at the last minute. It is hoped to have the co-operation of the VK7s during our field days this season and they have promised to put stations out if VK3s place their portables in a favourable position for them.

The Z calls have now reached a total of sixteen and this has given a great lift to activity on 2 mx. Beams at 3BW, 3BQ and 3CI are being prepared for the 50 Mc. activity during the Ross Hull Contest.—3LN.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By the time you receive these notes, the Ross Hull V.h.f. Contest will be under way. I hope that those who do participate in the Contest will forward their logs, even if for checking purposes only. The Certificates are well worthwhile having, so into the fray chaps and win your spurs.

Now that the limited licenses are being issued, it may be pertinent to have some sort of a Federal Contest which would cater for those chaps who are confined to the frequencies above 144 Mc. Any ideas regarding that will be welcomed. It may be possible perhaps to run it concurrently with the Ross Hull since that does not include the bands above 54 Mc.

VK5 is to have an active v.h.f. operator at Alice Springs with the shift of Tom 5TL from Renmark to that domicile. That opens the question of the Northern Territory as one of the necessary contacts for 6 mx W.A.S. and no doubt Tom will be almost morally obliged to put a signal on 6 mx (beamed to VK5 of course!). I can hear Tom's reply now, "Give me the gear and I'll work anybody!" Well you never know Tom!

My shaft about 576 Mc. fell to earth and Bruce 5OR phoned me some details of his modifications to the coax line oscillators and made a plea for somebody to come on to the band and work him. Brian 5CA has had them working, Bob 5PU also, so surely someone can push a signal into Prospect!! Bruce modified one as a super-regen rx by unearthing the grid connection and connecting a 2 meg. resistor straight from the grid to the container which forms the plate line. A 50 pF. mica condenser bypasses across the resistor in the usual super-regen way. The h.t. is controlled by the potentiometer method and the audio output via an audio transformer is fed to a two stage a.f. amplifier. This amplifier becomes the modulator for transmitting. The tx grid leak is earthed and a separate unit has been modified for that purpose. The best value of grid leak appears to be between 4K and 5K, with a couple of hundred volts h.t. supply. A push-pull speaker transformer feeds modulator and tx supply in the usual balanced arrangement that Doc 5MD described earlier. A seven element Yagi completes Bruce's set-up.

Heard Ron 5MK and Clem 5GL working cross band with Ron testing out his new 2 mx converter. Must be working fairly well Ron as you seemed to cover town easily.

The VK5 Z calls are steadily mounting and I am hoping to welcome Carl Sappiatza to the ranks if the powers do the right thing—we all hope Carl OM that the c.w. went all right too. Another keen one is Ray Tuck's brother—a little coaching in the right direction can bring good results. Ray 5BT has been busy lately with that side of life which brings in the bacon so has not too much to report.

It has been suggested that one of the general meeting nights be set aside for a display of members' gear. As I shall soon have to be thinking about next year's programme I would welcome some constructive ideas. For myself, I gain much from the study of v.h.f. equipment, where there is plenty of room for individuality. One thing comes to mind. I had not fully realised the value of neutralising an r.f. stage to reduce the noise until I saw the way it was done and the simplicity of it all and had heard the remarkable difference that it made on the signal-noise ratio. Anyhow, what do you think about that idea?—5XU.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

50 Mc.: Not the least of the attractions of 50 Mc. of late has been quite a burst of mobile activity. Both 6TR and 6WJ have gone into business in this line with excellent results. Quite a lot of midnight oil has been burnt on the project and I seem to remember hearing about work carrying on till 0430 hours one morning! There's a stayer for you—and no names, no pack drill! Tx's in use both employ 6M5s in the p.a.; plate and screen and clamp tube modulation respectively. 6TR is using a xtal controlled converter in front of his car radio, tuning from 550-1600 Kc. to cover approx. 50-51 Mc. Works out really well too—a spot of car-to-car mobile work should be possible shortly when Warren gets a rx going.

Jack 6GB has been joining in the mobile tests and has been trying out a very high grade xtal microphone. 6SJ has been very silent of late, but Sid is busy with shift work, etc., and can often only be available at unusual hours, i.e. 2200-0200 and the like. A trip to VK5 for Sid should be coming off shortly, so maybe the v.h.f. fraternity in Adelaide will have a visitor. 6BO has been tied up with matters other than Amateur Radio, but come December and I bet Rolo will be in the thick of it once again. He has been threatening a new tower to elevate the 144 Mc. and 288 Mc. beams, and this may well materialise 'ere the end of the summer holidays.

Nothing heard yet of 6NF on the band though Norm has been close to emitting a signal for some time now. 6FB having converter troubles

(Continued on Page 16)

STOP PRESS!

EXPLOSION AT LOXTON

The Manager of the Loxton Co-operative Winery and Distillery Ltd., Alexander Wainwright Kelly, VK5XO, 42, married, was killed and two men injured, one seriously, when a 14,000 gallon vat containing 8,500 gallons of overproof spirit exploded about 2.45 p.m. on 16th November.

The blast, believed to have been touched off by a spark from a welding outfit, blew the top off the 15 ft. high vat, and hurled VK5XO about 60 ft. to the ground, killing him instantly. VK5XO was standing on top of the vat, supervising the work.

DX ACTIVITY BY VK3AHH†

PROPAGATION REPORT

3.5 Mc.: During October, conditions were reasonably fair to **North America** (0730-1300z) with break-throughs from **Central and South America** (0830-1030z), **Europe** (1915-2000z), and the **Far East** (0900-1100z).

7 Mc.: Again this band demonstrated its usefulness as a reliable DX band. **European** conditions were likely between 1400 and 2100z and again around 0630-0900z. **North Africa** was represented around 0700-0800z and also 2100-2200z, with **East Africa** from 1900 to 2130z. **Central** and **South America** were workable between 0600 and 1400z, with the **Far East** and the **Pacific Islands** from about 0800 to 1400z.

14 Mc.: Conditions appeared to be improvnig during the month with **European** break-throughs between 1000z and 1500z and also around 0500-0800z. **Antarctica** came through between 0200 and 0800z, but rather sporadically. **South America** was relatively well represented during the period 0400-0800z. **African** and **North American** were very erratic throughout the month and no definite periods were indicated.

21 Mc.: This also showed some improvement. The **American Continents** and **Pacific Islands** as well as the **Far East** were likely to come through between 2100 and 0400z, with **Europe** around 0800-1000z.

27-28 Mc.: A sporadic **European** opening has been reported on 20/10/54 at 1110z.

NEWS AND NOTES

G2RO expects to operate from **Cocos Island** after visiting VK-land. Here his arrival is scheduled for 17th November, '54, in Sydney.

The prefix JA0 does **not** indicate Iwo Jima. Stations there operate as **KA0**.

ZC4JA, John Hunt, ex-G2FSR, VS4JH, VS5JH, VS6JH, is looking for his friends in VK-land.

Bill **VK1EG** has been quite active from Mawson on both 7 and 14 Mc. c.w.

ZS2BC is regularly on 7014 Mc. c.w.

Walt., **G3DCU**, ex-VK2AWU, wants to be remembered to his friends in VK-land.

Referring to an item in last month's notes, the one-man raft has, in the meantime, as is well known by now, arrived at Samoa. Around the world, Amateurs were listening for **7HTAS** and our congratulations are offered to Doug ZK1AB, who was successful in picking up the raft's signal after its arrival in Samoan waters. In this world, where mankind endeavours to conquer nature by means of all sorts of machinery, the excellent results of **Mr. William Willis** as the one-man skipper are outstanding and second to none. Admittedly, many of us have, during past years, seen hard and turbulent times with the skeleton of Death as company, and thus have become a bit indifferent to adventurous achievements of this kind! But the fact remains that this indeed is a performance worthy of taking off one's hat to the man who did it!

As is well known among DXers, the results of the "CQ" DX Contest, 1953, were not published at the usual place in a manner satisfactory to contest participants. Here now are the official VK scores, by courtesy of W9VW:

All Band C.W.		7 Mc. C.W.	
VK2GW	84332	VK2GW	4853
VK4EL	49197	VK3AHH	3432
VK3XK	33867	VK3XK	3294
VK2PV	28420	VK4EL	2353
VK3AHH	25666	VK3AZW	1978
VK5FO	19240	VK5FO	1551
VK3AZW	17464	VK2PV	1334
VK3ANJ	7602	VK3ANJ	1065

14 Mc. C.W.		21 Mc. C.W.	
VK2GW	17343	VK4HR	11319
VK3AWW	12596	VK4FJ	6683
VK2PV	9741	VK2GW	5421
VK4EL	9592	VK4EL	4386
VK3HL	9006	VK3XK	1026
VK3XK	7680	VK2PV	800
VK3AZW	7650	VK3AHH	558

All Band Phone		14 Mc. Phone	
VK4EL	2024	VK5XN	9350
VK2GW	1973	VK3AMR	7548
		VK3AWW	3168
21 Mc. Phone		VK5CE	3045
VK4EE	238	VK4WF	2044
		VK4EL	924

The distribution of certificates was **not** done in accordance with the rules for the 1953 Contest, but followed a certain line of thought determined by the Awards Committee of the International DX Club, which sponsored the 1953 Contest. **W9VW assures us that this time the Committee promises to stick to its rules**, and asks that all entries for the 1954 Contest be posted before 15th December.

This is the present state of our black list of non-amateurs stations operating in Amateur bands:—

7008 Kc.—Radio Pakistan.
7015 Kc.—ETA 40 (c.w.).
14150 Kc.—Japanese telephony station.

QTHs OF INTEREST

VQ6LQ—Box 11, Hargeisa, British Somaliland.
FI8BC—Box 25, Saigon, French Indo China.
HK3PC—Pio Casares, Box 3418, Bogota, Columbia.
VQ4EG—Box 4383, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya.
KC4AB—Via W4QCW, J. R. Eshelman, Parkview, Harrisonburg.
TI2WZZ—Box 3367, San Jose, Costa Rica.
ZD3BCF—P.O. Box 285, Bathurst, Gambia.
JY1US—Jim Davis, C/o. American Embassy, Amman, Jordan.
TI2CHV—P.O. Box 584, San Jose, Costa Rica.

ACTIVITIES

3.5 Mc.: Frank **2QL** starts off with W2*, K6*, W8* and CE3AG, KH6, followed by Neil **3HG** with KH6MG*, W2*. Fred **3YS** reports W6* and W2. ZK1BG*, and Bob **3ZP** adds W6*, VE4RO*. **3AHH** listed a series of Ws* in districts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0. KH6MG* and KP4KD, KL7AWB, VE4RO, VE4XO, JA1AS, DL3KN.

7 Mc.: **2QL**: JA*, ZC4IP*, YU*, CE3AG* and VQ6LQ, LX1AS. SU1WW, CE3QW, FB8ZZ, YI2AM, 3V8CM, ZC7AM, EA9DF, 4X4RE. Norm **2XZ**: CN8GB*, FA8DA*, HR1JZ*, YV1AD*, VP6GT*, VP6KL*, CO8AQ*, KP4QA*, VS6CQ*, LA*, OZ*, ON4*, Gs*, JAs* and TI2PZ. Laurie **2AMB**: VK1PG*, JAs*, VEs*, KL7*, ON4*, Gs*, DL*, KP4CC*, KP4KD*, ZC4IP*, EA8GA*, and SM, HR1BJ, CN8GB, PA0JI. On phone Col **3WQ** heard PY1AC and Don **3ALQ** mentioned HK, YN, CO. Bob **7OM**: G*. Eric **BERS195**: OD5LX, OE1WH, EA7EW, ZC4IP, 4X4DE, 4X4RE. Norman Clarke: KR6AA, JA1AF on phone. **3AHH**: VQ4EG*, Gs*, EA*, ON4* and LU4WJ, 4X4RE, OD5LX.

14 Mc. C.W.: **2QL**: FI8BC*, CR9AF*, OD5AV*, FB8XX*, XE1BS*, YV5ES*, LUs*, VK1EG*, ZSs*, CN8MM* and BV1US, VS4HK, MP4QAH, MP4BBL, VP8AA, VP8AO, AP5TM, AG2GY, VQ8BC, YK1AH, ET3S, PY2BB. **2XZ**: MP4BBL*, ZK1*, ZSs*, FO8AC*, XZ2OM*, HR1AT*, KV4AA*, YV5AE*, LU6FA*, VP6KL*, KZ5*, FA3OA*, CT*, OE*, HB9*, I*, Gs*, SM*, OH* and AG2GY, MP4QAH, CE, PY. Noel **2AHH**: HS1D*, PA0*, DL/DJ*, OZ*, LU6DJX*, G*, SM*, JA*, OH*, SM*, ON4*, GI*, OE*, GW*, F*, HR1AT*, LA*, HB1MX/HE*, FA*, HB9*, PJ2AN*, VR3A*, VQ4EG*, YV5*, GM*, EI*, GC2FZC*, KZ5*, VP4LW*, ZC4JA*, and ET2XX. **2AMB**: ZM6*, VK1PG*, VS1*, ZS* and IS1, SV1AB. Neville **2APL**: JAs*. Alan **3CX**: VP8AO*, YV5AE*, CR7LU*, HR1AH*, VP6GT*, CO2*, PY7AN*, FR7ZA*, ZSs*, VQ6LQ*, FA3OA*, HB9*, VR3*, OE*, LU*. Bert **3HE**: OH*, DL*. **3HG**: YV5EU*, OH*, 4S7LB*, VS6*, MP4BBL*, DU*. Alf **3KB**: VS5KU*, VS4HK*, VQ6LQ*, VK1EG*, ZS7C*. Ken **3KR**: VK1EG*, I*, VS1*, MP4BBL*, OH*, G*, VP8BE*, PY6BN*, LU*, VP3AA*, VK1DY*, ZC4PB*, ZK1*, CE3RE*, SM*, PA0*, ZSs*, DU*, 4S7KH*, ZB1BU*, C3AR*. Bill **3TX**: OH*. Lee **3XO**: PY*, DU*, DL*, FB8XX*, VK1EG*, OD5*, YI*, ZS*, VQ4*, FB8ZZ*, TI*, FA*, VR3A*, G*, OZ*, SM*, LA*, KZ*, KV4*, VP8*, PA0*, HS*, VS6*, ZM6*, ZK1*. Bob **4RW**: OH*, YU*, HC1EP*, DJ*, G*, SM*, AP2K*, KC6*, HB1MX/HE*, MB9BJ*, VS4DK*, CE3RE*. John **5HI**: ST2NG*, VP6CJ*, FA8AN*, C3AR*, VQ6LQ*, FB8XX*. Ray **5RK**: JA*, VU2*, KA*. Austin **5WO**: FI8BA*, SM*, VS6*, GI*. Brian **6ZI**: I*, ST2NG*, GI*, OE*, DL*, ZS*, SM*. **BERS195**: VQ6LQ.

14 Mc. Phone: **2XZ**: OA3C*, HC1LW*, KZ*, TI2GC*, VS2*. **2AHH**: VS2*, PA0*, HK*, HR*, OH*, G*, SM*, F*, PI1J*, I*, ZSs*, 4X4*, TI*, OA3C*, HC*, YV*, CP5AB*, KZ5*, OA4ED*, PY8HF*, CT*, I*, CN8MM*, FO8AC*, VS1*, 4S7*, PY9BR*, PY2AHS*. **3HG**: VS2*, 4S7YL*, VQ4ERR*, EA*, CN8MM*, VK1PG*. **3KR**: ZM6*, 4S7YL*, TI2RMA*, JAs*, VS2*, HK3PC*. Percy **3PA**: HK3PC*, CO*. Stan **3TE**: 4S7LB*, 4S7SS*, 4X4DK*, CT*, Gs*, HC2JR*, FI8AK*, DL/DJ*, GM*, KA/JA*, I*, LA*, MP4BBL*, OH*, PA0*, SM*, VS2*, VU2*. John **3AGD**: VS*, I*, and 4S7, ON4, 4X4. Bill **3AJU**: ZS*. **3ALQ**: VS2*, KA/JA*, GM*, HK3FV*, YN4CB*, CO2BL*. Ray **3ARO**: ON4*, G*. **4RW**: XZ2OM*, FU8AC*, PY1MK*, TI2JV*, TI2JG*, HB1MX/HE*, VS4DK*. **5HI**: ZB1AJX*, 4X4GB*, OA4BT*, PY4PI*, PY2AHS*, PY1MK*, LU7BO*, TI3JT*, ZE1JX*, HC1EP*, HC2JF*, ZK1*, HK3PC*, YV5EU*, HC2JR*, HC1MB*, TI2WZZ*, CO*, HK4DF*, HK3FV*, KA/JA*. **5WO**: ZSs*, ZM6*, YV1LB*, HC1LW*, OA3C*, TI2GC*, TI2WZZ*, F*, PY2AHS*, LU4DMG*, LU3FAQ*, I*, DL*, 4X4DK*, YV5EU*, HC1MB*, KT1WX*, CO*, HC2JR*, HK3PC*, ZE2JE*, KZ5*, VS2*, DU*, 4S7YL*, OE*, OH*, G*, LA*, F*, IS1*, 4S7GV*, VU2*, VS1*. **Norman Clarke**: VS6, VS2. **Jim Hunt**: HK3PC, HC1LW, YV1CB, YV5AE, OA3C, HC2JR, TI2GC, TI2RMA, ZS, KT1WX, CO, CN8MM, VP4BN, I, PA0, OE, SM, MP4KAC, MP4QAH, MP4BBL, LA, FI, HB1MX/HE, GM, F, IS1, FI8AZ, HI6EC, 4X4DK, VU2, 4X4RE, 4S7YL, EA, DL, VS6, G.

21 Mc.: **2AHH**: KA*, KG6*, KR6*. Norm **2ALJ**: Ws*, KH6*, JAs*, KG*, KJ*, HC1FS*, VS1*. Noel **2AQH**: HC1*, Ws*, JA*, VS1*, 4S7*. **3PA**: Ws*, HC1FS*, KH6*, KJ6*, KC6*, VS1*, HC1LW*, DU7SV*, VR2*, JA* and AP2K. **3YT**: Ws*, KH6*, KR6*, VS1*, KG6*, VR2*, VS6*, HS1VR*, PA0*, G*, ON4*, DL*, HB9*, KC6*, KA/JA* and HC1, 4S7, VR5, AP2, FI8, 4X4. **5WO**: KH6*, VS1*, Ws*, 4S7YL*, G*. **Jim Hunt**: Ws, KH6, KC6, KR6, 4S7YL, VS1FE, DU7SV.

27-28 Mc.: Despite much listening, **Jim Hunt** did not hear any DX station during the month. **3YT** reports hearing a G3 on phone (no call sign reported) at 1110z on 20/10/54.

QSLs received: **2QL**: FO8AJ, LU4ZI, LU8ABL. **2XZ**: HR1JZ, KP4QA. **2AHH**: KF3AB, KV4AA, AG2BC, VQ4EI. **2AMB**: PA0UW, SM5AQV (both 7 Mc.). **BERS195**: CE4BX, CX2CL, EA9DF/Rio di Oro, FI8AZ, XW8AA, HP1JF, FO8AJ/MM.

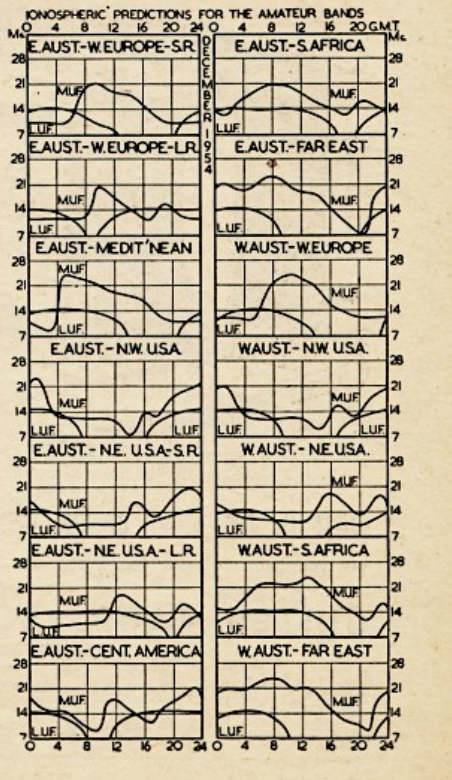
Thanks to Northern California and Southern California DX Clubs, VR2RO, W6TNR, W9VW, VKs 2QL, 2XZ, 2AHH, 2ALJ, 2AMB, 2APL, 2AQH, 3CX, 3HE, 3HG, 3KB, 3KR, 3PA, 3TE, 3TX, 3WQ, 3XO, 3YS, 3YT, 3ZP, 3AGD, 3AJU, 3ALQ, 3ARO, 4RW, 5HI, 5RK, 5VK, 5WO, 6ZI, 7OM and s.w.l's. BERS195, Norman Clarke, and Jim Hunt.

The month of December brings us Christians our festive season—Christmas. May it be a merry one!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W.I.A. members are requested to promptly notify any change of address to their Divisional Secretary, not direct to "Amateur Radio."

PREDICTION CHART FOR DEC., 1954



† Hans J. Albrecht, 10 Belgravia Ave., Box Hill North, E.12, Vic.
* Call signs and prefixes worked.
z — zero time—G.M.T.

SHORT WAVE LISTENERS' SECTION*

Australian Short Wave Listeners! Are you interested in making this section of the magazine really worth while? If you do, forward your reports to the person responsible for the compilation of these notes.—Editor.

News on the Bands.—First of all I would like to welcome two new reporters for this column and they are both from VK2. First of all a 12-year-old budding Amateur, Stewart Little, of Belmore, N.S.W. Thanks for the reports Stewart and do hope to receive more from you in the future. Stewart's rx is a Bendix MN26C with a 3-tube converter ahead of it. It has a 6AK5 r.f., 6BE6 mixer and 6C4 osc. The antenna in use is two half waves in phase on 20 mx and seems to favour mid Pacific and JA land.

Our second VK2 correspondent is Gordon J. S. Hepburn, of Punchbowl, N.S.W. Gordon has been an s.w.l. since 1929 and his first QSL card was from VK4LW (C. R. Morris) of Rosedale, Brisbane, dated 30th June, 1930. Gordon's rx is a commercial 5 valve dual wave with a captain unit as the antenna. Well good listening to both Stewart and Gordon, and hope to receive regular reports from you both.

20 mx: From Stewart Little the following were heard in VK2 at good level: KA0IJ, JA4BB, ZLs, W0KOK, VK1AC, KA7JM, KH6AF, VS6CW, GM3, VK9s, W1ATE, G3HSN ,W1RYT, 1CEI, EI5I, OE3WD, OZ7BG, KW6BB, VK6MK (very unusual to hear VK6s at Belmore, N.S.W.), G6FS, VK6MG, KH6AF, KH6AVP, KH6KS (on s.s.c.), KA2LK, OE13WD, EI2W, G2BLT, LA5YE, G3GJF, VEs, VSs. From Gerry Lane the following: VK9AB, KG6SB, LU8CG, VK6GS. From my location, I heard the following: DL3AP, W6AMI, KA2IM, KA6BS, ZK6BX, KA2LG, EA2JB, KA0IJ, KC6DB, KR6AA, VR2CK, LU5DL, KA2YA, LU7AA, KC6ZB, KF2FM, ZM6AI, ZL1HY, VS6BZ, KA7JM, KA3MD, KR6AS, DL4UF, W6GBX, ZL3OP, JA2NA, CO2BL, K4AIL, PY3PZ, W6WXG, ZS3P, KR6AZ, W2BCU.

40 mx: From Gerry HP3FL (R5, S8); here have heard W2, 3, 6, 0 on phone.

80 mx: Quite a few ZLs including the ZL broadcast.

From Edwin Wilson, of Alphington, I received the following information from Radio Japan: 0900-1000 G.M.T., programme beamed to Australia and New Zealand, on tx JOA3, JOB4, JOA6. Frequency of tx's: JOA3 9695 Kc. (30.94 metres); JOB4 11780 Kc. (24.47 metres); JOA6 15135 Kc. (19.82 metres); JOB2 7180 Kc. (41.78 metres). All reports should be sent to International Broadcasting Department, Nippon, Hoso Kyokui, Japan.

From Graeme Hutchins, of Radio Australia, I received the following: The Voice of the United Nations Command tx's are at Korea using 2500 watts in conjunction with a 500 watt tx at Souel on 560 Kc. They are on the air between 1100-1800 and 1800-2200 hours. Stations on from 1100-1600 hours are JBD 5005 Kc., JBD2 9560 Kc., these are known as the "A" network. The "V" network relay on 690 Kc., 830 Kc., 870 Kc., 1000 Kc., 1050 Kc. and 1330 Kc. between 1435-1500 G.M.T. From 1505-1635 G.M.T., the "C" network operate on 560 Kc., 690 Kc., 830 Kc. and 4780 Kc. JBD2 is on the air throughout the 1100-2200 hours broadcast. Keorian Broadcasting System relay the Voice of the United Nations Command Service between 1330-1500 G.M.T. We thank Graeme, of Radio Australia, for the above information.

A last minute schedule was received from Bob Citroen, of Holland. Bob is now resident in VK3 land and he sent along the following schedule for PCJ, the Happy Station in the Netherlands. PCJ is situated in Hilversum, Holland, and operates on 16.88, 19.45, 19.71 and 25.58 metres. They broadcast to Australia between 1030-1200 G.M.T. on Sundays only. The English programmes to Australia on week-days are between 0945-1025 G.M.T. on 16.88, 19.45 and 19.71 metres. The above programme is effective from November, 1954, to April, 1955. Bob states that PCJ will probably be operating on higher power, 100kw. either late in December, or early in the new year. PCJ verifies by QSL card and is one worth having. Their address is Edward Startz Radio PCJ, The Happy Station, Wireldomeop, Box 137, Hilversum, Holland. Thanks Bob for the above schedule and hope you receive good signals from home.

Indonesia broadcasts to Australia in both English and Dutch on 17860 Kc. between 1100-1200 G.M.T. So chaps, that concludes this month's loggings. Many thanks to those chaps who sent in reports for last month.

On Tuesday, October 26, members of the VK3 Division of the S.w.l. Group met in the club-rooms at 191 Queen St. In the chair was President Len Poynter, Secretary Gerrard Lane, Col 3FO and Arthur 3AHD.

The VK3 Division welcomes to the Group Aussie Thompson. I would like to wish you all the best and good listening Aussie. At the conclusion of general business, Gerry Lane gave a short talk on QSLing and the correct way for s.w.l's. to do it.

* John Wilson, 37 Rayment St., Alphington, Vic.

FIFTY MC. AND ABOVE

(Continued from Page 14)

and is engaged in a re-build there. 6AW has been eyeing his AR301 type rx with a view to a conversion job for six mx., but to date no progress. For Denis' activities, see the two mx column! 6CC now sports a new plate and screen modulator, which is a considerable improvement over the old clamp tube job, even if it only allows Frank to back off the 600 or so volts on the 815! 6DW in Bruce Rock has been on again and putting his usual good signal over the 120 miles to Perth. 6HK does not now have to rush outside armed with footprints and spanner to turn the beam around—just the flick of a switch.

144 Mc.: Quite a deal of interest being shown in this band of late and calls active at various times include 6AW, 6AG, 6BO, 6JT, 6OR, 6RU, 6WT, 6KW, 6HC, 6HK, 6ZAA and 6ZAZ. In an interesting series of tests with 6AW at 6HK's QTH, the advantage of using a narrow passband in the i.f. channel was clearly demonstrated. Using a two mx rx with 30 Mc. i.f. strip, signals were not able to be copied due to high noise level of both hiss and ignition variety. However on feeding the 30 Mc. output into a communications rx with an i.f. of 175 Kc. the signal to noise ratio was so improved that the signals "stuck out like a sore thumb" and were easily read. So it looks as if these AR301 jobs may be suspected as the reason for disappointing results achieved by some of the boys to date.

6ZAZ has been having more strife with the 815, but at the last time of QSO had it behaving very nicely as a straight p.a. 6AW has changed his beam to 3-el. close spaced and altered the matching system with greatly improved results. Denis has since heard 6ZAA and 6ZAZ, neither being audible before the alteration. 6OR has been heard on the band again with a fine signal from Mosman Park. 6ZAA is working on a new xtal controlled converter, but has not got same working to his satisfaction yet. Conditions to 6DW provided a best-ever phone QSO recently with signals peaking 5-7 over the 120 miles. On this occasion conditions provided better signals on peaks than 50 Mc. at the same time, although QSB was more severe at the higher frequency.—6HK.

TASMANIA

The highlight of v.h.f. activity in Tasmania this month was the visit of 7LE to Mt. Arthur. Len, together with 7CA and 7ML, was working on the Tasmanian end of the VK3/VK7 radio telephone link. Len decided to instal his 144 Mc. gear on the site with the idea of working into VK3, consequently within three hours of arriving at location, 7LE had contacted 7LZ in Launceston, this was followed by an excellent contact with 7AB at Devonport—a distance of 50 miles.

On 20th October, 7LE contacted 7AB at 2015 hours and at 2104 hours contact was made with 3BQ on A1, signals were R5 S3 at both ends. 7LE then heard 3BW but could not make contact, possibly because Len's frequency was 146.5 Mc. 3BQ contacted 3BW and at 2141 hours, 3BW contacted 7LE. 3BW used A3 and was received by 7LE at R5 S7, whilst 7LE used A1 and was R5 S5 at Portarlington. These contacts were approx. 270 miles and 260 miles respectively.

7LE's tx had an input of 12w. and his antenna was a 4-el. beam 25 ft. high, the location was 1750 ft. a.s.l.

The following week Len was scheduled to make a two-day trip to Flinders Island, however bad weather interrupted air transport and Len was only able to operate for one night from the island. For this trip he used his "portable" portable rig with an input of 5w. and left the Mt. Arthur gear in the capable hands of 7CA and 7ML. Transmitting from a site 400 ft. high and under extremely adverse conditions, contact was made with Mt. Arthur with signals S6 both ends on A3, a distance of 82 miles. This was the first v.h.f. contact between the Bass Strait islands and Tasmania and it is hoped that now 7AK, who is postmaster on Flinders Island, has seen what can be done he might at last get started; if so, it would give a tremendous impetus to v.h.f. activity both here and on the mainland.

Actual operating on the VK3/VK7 v.h.f. telephone link has shown that the best chance for a VK3/VK7 144 Mc. contact is at 2000 hours, whilst the worst period is around 1400 hours.

No details have been received here in respect to the stations which will be operating on 50 Mc. this season, in Launceston 7BQ and 7LZ both expect to be active, whilst 7XW is also a likely starter. It is hoped that Chris will be able to give several mainland stations a new VK7 contact. As the season should be well under way before these notes are read, nothing more can be done other than to wish all stations "good hunting."—7LZ.

FEDERAL, QSL, and DIVISIONAL NOTES

FEDERAL

Fed. President: W. R. Gronow, VK3WG.

Fed. Secretary: L. D. Bowie, VK3DU, Box 2611W, G.P.O., Melbourne.

QSL Bureau: R. E. Jones, VK3RJ, 23 Landale Street, Box Hill, E.11, Vic.

DX C.C. Manager: G. I. Morris, VK3BZ, 50 Eighth Street, Parkdale, Vic.

NEW SOUTH WALES

President: Jim Corbin, VK2YC.

Secretary: Harry Hickin, VK2ACH, Box 1734 G.P.O., Sydney.

Meeting Night: Fourth Friday of each month at Science House, Gloucester Street, Sydney.

Divisional Sub-Editor: Ted Whiting, VK2ACD, 16 Louden Street, Five Dock.

QSL Bureau: J. B. Corbin, VK2YC, 78 Maloney St., Eastlake, Sydney (Inwards and Outwards).

Zone Correspondents: North Coast and Tablelands: Noel Hanson, VK2AHH, Ryan Ave., West Kempsey; **Newcastle:** Ron McD. Stuart, VK2ASJ, 98 Dunbar St., Stockton; **Coalfields and Lakes:** Harry Hawkins, VK2YL, 27 Comfort Ave., Cessnock; **Western:** W. H. Stitt, VK2WH, Cambijowa, Forbes; **South Coast and Southern:** Eric Fisher, VK2DY, 2 Oxlade St., Warrawong; **South Western:** J. W. S. Edge, VK2AJO, Wallace St., Coolamon; **St. George:** Chas. Coyle, VK2YK, 84 Carlton Cres., Kogarah; **Western Suburbs:** Barry White, VK2AAB, 33 Flavelle St., Concord.

VICTORIA

President: G. Dennis, VK3TF.

Secretary: C. Gibson, VK3FO.

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. G. Pickering, Law Court Chambers, 191 Queen St., Melb'ne.

Meeting Night: First Wednesday of each month at the Radio School, Melb. Technical College.

Divisional Sub-Editor: K. E. Pincott, VK3AFJ, 14 Dunscombe Ave., Ashburton, S.E.11.

QSL Bureau: Inwards—Graham Roper, VK3ZB, 26 Lucas St., South Caulfield, Vic. Outwards—Frank O'Dwyer, VK3OF, 190 Thomas St., Hampton, S.7, Vic.

Zone Correspondents: Central Western: W. J. Kinsella, VK3AKW, Magdala, Lubeck; **South Western:** W. Wines, 11 Redford St., Warrnambool, and E. Giddings, VK3ANQ, 8 Nelson St., Warrnambool; **North Eastern:** A. D. Buchanan, VK3FD, "Booroondal," Wahring; **Far North Western:** M. Folie, VK3GZ, 101 Lemon Ave., Mildura; **Eastern:** C. J. Arnold, VK3AJA, McAlister St., Stratford; **North Western:** C. Case, VK3ACE, Cumming Ave., Birchip; **S.w.l. Group:** John Wilson, 37 Rayment St., Alphington, N.20.

QUEENSLAND

President: Harold Murphy, VK4HM.

Secretary: W. A. Young, VK4YA, Box 638J, G.P.O., Brisbane.

Meeting Night: First Friday in each month at the Royal Geographical Society Rooms, Ann Street, City.

Divisional Sub-Editor: J. T. Hope, VK4XL, Royal Parade, St. John's Wood, Ashgrove.

QSL Bureau: Inwards—J. Files, VK4JF, Wanda St., Buranda; Outwards—Miss Clair O'Brien, 93 Jardine St., Stafford.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

President: G. M. Bowen, VK5XU.

Secretary: R. G. Harris, VK5RR, Box 1234K, G.P.O., Adelaide. Telephone: J 1151.

Meeting Night: Second Tuesday of each month at 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide.

Divisional Sub-Editor: W. W. Parsons, VK5PS, 10 Victoria Avenue, Rose Park.

QSL Bureau: Geo Luxton, VK5RX, 8 Brook St., West Mitcham, South Aus. (Inwards and Outwards).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President: F. A. T. Tredrea, VK6FT.

Secretary: J. Mead, VK6LJ, Box N1002, G.P.O. Perth.

Meeting Place: Perth Technical College Annexe, Mounts Bay Road, Perth.

Meeting Night: Third Tuesday of the month.

Divisional Sub-Editor: D. E. Graham, VK6HK, 110 Edinboro St., Mt. Hawthorn.

QSL Bureau: Jim Rumble, VK6RU, Box F319, Perth, West. Aus. (Inwards and Outwards).

TASMANIA

President: L. E. Edwards, VK7LE.

Secretary: W. G. Tait, Box 371B, G.P.O. Hobart.

Meeting Night: First Wednesday of each month at the W.I.A. Club Room, 147 Liverpool Street, Hobart.

Divisional Sub-Editor: L. E. Edwards, VK7LE, 126 Strickland Ave., Hobart.

QSL Bureau: Ray Calvert, VK7RT, Box 371B, G.P.O., Hobart. (Inwards and Outwards).

Zone Correspondents: Northern: M. A. Chaplin, VK7CA, 56 Trevallyn Rd., Launceston; **North Western:** R. K. Wilson, 11 Cunningham St., Burnie, Tasmania.

FEDERAL

A.O.C.P. AND MORSE CODE

For some time Federal Executive has been making an investigation into the examination set by the Amateur Administration for the Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency. This has necessitated a good deal of research and the checking of various results. In this particular phase of the work, the Amateur Administration has given splendid co-operation, in supplying details and summaries on which the following findings have been based.

The Morse Section, both receiving and sending, presents the greatest difficulty to candidates. It is generally thought that receiving is the difficulty, but it is worthy of note that sending is often well below pass standard.

Regulations are, for the most part, of satisfactory standard, while the Theory presents only moderate difficulty.

Executive suggests, therefore, that those who are engaged in the instruction of candidates for the A.O.C.P. should give some consideration to allotting more time to Code Practice, both Sending and Receiving, and that students be encouraged to do more at home, utilising the transmissions to be heard on the s.w. bands.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!

Following an advertisement in "A.R." seeking the services of an Actuary, Federal Executive is happy to announce that Mr. W. Falconer, VK3AWF, has offered his assistance. Bill's onerous task will be to analyse the results of the R.D. Contest of the past, and develop a new approach, such as will promote more activity in the Contest and give all States an equal chance of winning.

It is interesting to note that Bill is one of eighteen actuaries in Melbourne, and probably the only one with a knowledge and understanding of band conditions. Members will recollect that the call VK3AWF was frequently heard on the bands some twelve months ago before Bill left for a trip abroad.

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FED. CONTEST COMMITTEE

The Contest Committee met this month at the QTH of the Chairman, Gordon 5XU, and set about the job of tidying up the loose ends of the R.D. Contest, including correspondence. Opportunity is taken here to point out that the Contest Committee, being a Federal one, all correspondence between it and any Division should come from the Federal Councillor for that Division, although it welcomes correspondence from individual members of the Institute concerning contest matters.

A long discussion took place regarding the Ross Hull Memorial Contest and the present rules with a view to further improving same before next year's contest.

The National Field Day was discussed; because Federal policy dictates that alterations to rules must be notified to all Divisions three months before the contest, insufficient time remains to make any alterations this year. However, Federal Council's directive in this regard will receive attention during the forthcoming year.

General discussion then took place and it was agreed to comply with the request of the old Committee and handle the few remaining 1953 VK-ZL Contest Certificates, and it was also decided that the matter of all certificates for any past contests would be straightened out. Should any Amateur still be in the position of not having received a certificate to which he is entitled, would he contact either his Division or the Contest Committee direct.

A statistical summary of the R.D. Contests by Major Mitchell, VK3UM, was received and handed over to Contest Manager, Jim 5FO, who is employed in the Statistical Department of the S.A. Government. He will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

The matter of publicity for W.I.A. Contests and the lack of information available to the Committee regarding overseas contests was discussed at length, and it was decided to take this matter up with F.E.

[F.E. Comment.—The newly constituted Federal Contest Committee has done a sterling job considering all the handicaps it has had to overcome. Taking over honorary office in any nation-wide organisation such as the Institute inevitably leads to some confusion and misunderstanding. F.E., at the behest of Federal Council, produced a Manual for the Guidance of Federal Councillors to overcome a similar problem to that with which the Contest Committee is now confronted. A manual is now being prepared for the guidance of Contest Committee in which many suggestions of the present Committee will be incorporated. The introduction of a coherent and straight forward "Terms of Reference" and Constitution, complete with "Calendar" and procedure should eliminate any misunderstandings in the future. In the meantime we sympathise with the members of the present Committee and applaud them for their strenuous efforts to make this year's contests a real success.]

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FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

RAY JONES, VK3RJ, MANAGER

Referring to a par. in these notes in the November issue, additional information on Fletcher Island, Ice Island T3, has come to hand. This floating ice island was discovered in 1950 and found to be large enough for human habitation. Although the island was constantly moving, its approximate position was about 80 miles from the geographical North Pole. The first personnel landed there in March, 1952, and the island was abandoned by the Americans on 22nd May, 1954. Life on T3 was not pleasant. Seldom was the sky free of dreary fog and haze. Gale force winds and extremely low temperatures had to be battled by those who had to venture outdoors.

Geoff Warner, ex-VK9GW, who has been abroad for some months, duly arrived back in VK on schedule and after a brief stay in VK3 will settle down in VK2 and be heard from that location.

Jim HS1D, ex-TA3FAS, is leaving Bangkok, Siam, shortly on return to U.S.A. He does not know whether his successor is an Amateur or not. Jim expects to depart on 1st February.

G3GUV has a special card for stations to whom he has sent a previous QSL and not had any reply. The repeat card is printed on a special kind of flimsy paper, which has one side rough and the other smooth. The paper is perforated at each end, apparently for tearing from a roll. One end bears the maker's inscription, "Sprim's Germicide."

One of the many Amateurs engaged in missionary work throughout the world is the Rev. Walter Sandman, CE4BX. He is a Roman Catholic priest stationed at Molina in Chile and he is active on both 7 and 14 Mc. c.w. and seeks VK contacts. He uses a 400w. tx, SX71 rx and a full wave Hertz.

A natty QSL card from EA9DF, located in Rio de Oro. It depicts camels and palm trees. The operator is Cesar Yague, ex-EA8BI. He modestly says he is a first-class telegraphist and seldom transmits at less than 30 w.p.m.

Treb. states he recently received the largest QSL card ever. It is that of W2APF and measures 10 x 6 inches. I am very happy that guy QSLs direct. The card is only slightly smaller than the renowned effort of "Radio Andorra." The latter effort is a modest 9 x 7 inches.

Len Schooley, of Wheatland, Okla, U.S.A., recently received his novice ticket and call of WN5EGW at the ripe old age of 73 years.

The calendar reminds me that it is once again time to include a Xmas Greeting in these notes. For the 25th time it gives me great pleasure to wish all my QSL Bureau colleagues a Happy Xmas and a healthful 1955. May the new year see no unclaimed cards left on hand! This goes for all Amateurs too.

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NEW SOUTH WALES

The general meeting of the N.S.W. Division was held under the chairmanship of the President on October 22 before a good attendance. After the necessary formalities had been dispensed with, the meeting was handed over to the lecturer, Mr. C. Bardwell, 2IR, of the Marconi School of Wireless, who gave a most informative lecture on "The Importance of Fundamentals to Amateur Operators." During the course of the lecture, Mr. Bardwell traced the operation of a 100w. tx through its several stages and pointed out the desirable features

"ACOS" CRYSTAL MICROPHONES and MICROPHONE INSERTS

A Complete Range For Every Purpose

MIC 36

Housed in attractive plastic case, this Microphone is ideal for home recording and public address, etc. Response unexcelled for its size and price. The performance is not affected by vibration, shock or low frequency wind noise. Omni-directional frequency response substantially flat from 30 to 7000 c.p.s. Recommended load resistance not less than 1 megohm dependent on low frequency response. Can be supplied complete with switch and floor stand adaptor as required at a small extra cost.

£6/18/6

MIC 16

Designed to meet even the most exacting requirements, this Microphone incorporates the world famous floating crystal sound cell construction. Its special characteristics are that its fine performance is not affected by vibration or shock. The fidelity is not impaired by low frequency wind noise.

SPECIFICATION

Recommended load resistance—not less than 1 megohm.
Output level —65 db ref. 1 volt/dyne/cm².
Frequency response—substantially flat from 30 c.p.s. to 10,000 c.p.s.
Directivity—non-directional.
Size—2⅛" spherical diameter.
Connector—Standard international 3-pin.

£24/19/6

MIC 35

The MIC 35, undoubtedly the best value ever offered, is ideal for amateur transmitters, public address, etc. Housed in an attractive die-cast case, it features a high sensitivity and substantially flat characteristics. Provided with a built-in shunt resistance of 2 megohms, it will, when connected to the grid of the input valve, give a substantially flat response from 50 to 5000 c.p.s.

£2/15/-

SPECIFICATION

Output level: —55 db ref. 1 volt/dyne/cm².
Cable—approx. 4 ft. of co-axial supplied.
Weight—6 ozs. unpacked, 7 ozs. packed.
Dimensions—microphone only 2¼" x 2⅛" x ⅞"

MIC 22

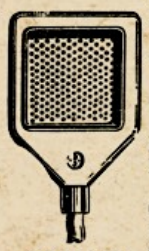
This omni-directional Microphone is robust in construction, with a pleasing appearance. Vibration, shock or low frequency wind noise will not affect the performance. The low frequency cut-off is dependent on the load resistance. The cut-off is given by the quotation, F = 80 ÷ R, where F = c.p.s., R = megohms. An adaptor (floor mounting) is available at low extra cost.

SPECIFICATION

Output level = —50 db ref. 1 volt/dyne/cm².
Output impedance—equivalent to approximately 0.002 uF. (0.8 megohm at 100 cycles).
Frequency response—substantially flat from 40 to 6000 c.p.s.
Recommended load resistance—not less than 1 megohm, dependent on low frequency response.

£9/18/6

MIC 28



Designed to give freedom of movement, this Microphone is small and non-directional. Housed in a soft moulded rubber case, which gives protection against shock, it is provided with a pin at the rear of the case for pinning to the lapel.

£5/19/6

SPECIFICATION

Output level—approx. —55 db ref. 1 volt/dyne/cm².
Recommended load resistance—5 megohms.
Frequency response—level throughout the whole of the audible spectrum.
Capacity—0.0015 uF. at 1000 c.p.s.
Impedance—100,000 ohms at 1000 c.p.s.
Cord—6 ft. shielded cable.
Size—1-9/16" wide x 2¼" long x ⅝" thick.

MIC 33

This Microphone has been designed for the high quality public address and home recording field. High sensitivity and flat characteristics are obtained by a specially designed acoustic filter. Housed in an attractive plastic case with an unexcelled response for its size and price. Unaffected by vibration, shock or low frequency wind noise. Omni-directional frequency response substantially flat from 30 to 7000 c.p.s.

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MICROPHONE INSERTS

(MIC 32 illustrated)

CRYSTAL MICROPHONE INSERTS

These inserts are available in varying sizes ranging from as small as 15/16" square to 1-13/16" round, with various thicknesses from 7/32" to 9/16". Suitable for every purpose such as hearing aids, public address, tape recording, amateur broadcasting, etc., they have responses from 2250 c.p.s. to 3500 c.p.s. at 5 db to 30 db. Insert can be supplied with or without 10 meg. resistor as required.

MIC 32 insert, **£2/15/6**; all others, **£1/19/6.**

MICROPHONE INSERTS

(MIC 23 illustrated)

EXCLUSIVE AGENTS: **AMPLION (A'SIA) PTY. LTD.** **SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

which should be incorporated in any tx, explaining the reasons for the inclusion of such features, and generally dealing with all aspects of design. The attentive audience were informed also of the methods they should adopt in the operation of their tx's. The vote of thanks to Mr. Bardwell was moved by 2IQ, who praised the lecturer and thanked him for the lecture, further stressing the point that the fundamentals in radio, as in other studies, are of the utmost importance. Nominations were called later to form a committee to organise the Xmas Party, and the following volunteered: 2AGO, 2AOJ, 2IQ, 2ARW and Mr. Reedy.

The meeting closed near the 11th hour, so as usual it was finalised on the steps outside the building by the usual group who gather there.

TRAFALGAR DAY

A fine display by the Royal Australian Navy was held at Garden Island, Sydney, on Trafalgar Day, October 26, which was attended in indifferent weather by many thousands of people. There was much to see and the displays set up by Naval personnel were of an interesting nature to young and old alike. A feature of the display was the setting up of an Amateur Radio demonstration (organised by Lieut-Commander G. Thrum, with the assistance of Ian 2JI) and a fine 144 Mc. demonstration by 2OA, who, despite difficulties at the beginning, made many contacts on that band. Operating difficulties were many, owing to power requirements of other exhibits, but by adopting a roster of operation, a fine demonstration of Amateur Radio was given to the large crowds who passed the stand.

It was noticed that there was considerable interest displayed by the younger members of the crowd and questions were answered with regularity. Other Amateurs seen at the exhibit were 2KS, 2ACD, 2BF, 2AQO, all of whom at one time or another were heard from one of the stations. Operation was on 40, 20 and 2 mx and despite interference the contacts made were all 100 per cent. A feature of the 144 Mc. contacts was with 2ABO/MM who was braving the elements on the Harbour in a launch. The thanks of all are extended to Lieut-Commander Thrum, who will be remembered for his work at VK2ZAN at Sydney Showground last Easter, and we all wish his station more power and plenty of contacts under the new call sign recently assigned. —2ANP.

URUNGA 1955

All are reminded that the North Coast Convention will be held at Urunga next Easter week-end, April 9-10-11, 1955. All are welcome and the organisers wish to receive bookings for accommodation as soon as possible, so contact Zone Officer 2AHH, Organiser 2AVG, 2XO or 2TG to book your accommodation. New and novel features are being arranged, details of which will be given in the near future, including a programme for the ladies and children. Don't miss this year's **bigger and better Urunga.**

SYDNEY AREA

Notes as usual are few and far between from the Sydney suburbs and all we can glean are as follows, followed by some acceptable notes from Don 2NO. 2APT has had trouble with hum, but now has the right combination; fine signal Jack. 2FA strikes a bit of trouble at times, but still manages to make a few contacts. 2ID, as I write, is doing a bit on 21 Mc.; this band is improving rapildy. 2AAB has taken over the N.S.W. Division Library and is busy therewith. 2ACD making good with the new beam. 2AJL has moved location a few miles, will be heard on again soon. 2ACN is now heard two nights a week these days. Bill 2SV is now back at work. 2FM still getting those good reports from all directions.

2OQ has the new beam in the air with the assistance of the gang. 2AYH has now decided to turn the beam in the right direction; they call him "wrong way Howie." A new call is 2GE, Max is putting out a nice signal and will soon have a beam in the air. 2AQH and 2AKV are only heard occasionally from the near mountain area. 2CE still plugging along and will be getting ready for his 144 Mc. mobile. 2AGU is getting more active. 2ZF has a nice beam I see from a distance. Very busy on s.s.s.b. these days is 2AEK.

EASTERN SUBURBS

Owing to a patch of perverse health, this correspondent had to miss a period of notes, but hopes to oblige again. Even so, it is necessary to stress that nary a soul has evinced any interest in notes from this region, so your guess is as good as mine. Ivan 2TN has moved to Randwick. 2SA is heard on 40, 20 15 and 2 mx from a southern direction, using a 21 Mc. Lazy H array on all the bands; it resonates nicely and gets out too. On Sunday, 5th Sept., much mobile activity was shown on 7 Mc., prominent being "Berry" 3APB, ex-2ABB, who had a splendid signal from a Command tx (7½w.) and centre loaded whip. Bill 2BT showed up in this area, using call 2AIV; gear was a converted FS6 used for bushfire work and aerial a centre loaded whip; Bill was en route to locate 2ASE.

In Maroubra, ex-2SB, now 2ASS, active on 40 and 20 mx, running 50w. to p.p. 807s and zepp. Les Page, ex-2YQ, has acquired 2LP and in a space of time will be leaving the King's Cross flat for a state of matrimony and a new QTH at St. Ives; he intends keeping in touch with the Coast by means of v.h.f's.

Bill Boone, Matraville, is now 2ZAB; he is working on the gear for 2 mx and should be on by the time this chatter reaches print. This scribe has put in an appearance on 2 mx and is agreeably surprised at the ease with which a puny signal can collect QSOs. The present gear (which will be used by 2MY) is tritet 6V6G (8 Mc. xtal), 6V6G to 48 Mc., VT501 tripler to 144 Mc. and a 6J6 p.a. with all of 2w. thereon. Encouraged by S8-9 reports from all over Sydney, suburbs, and Blue Mountains, Don set to and re-rigged his rotary water pipe—added a reflector to make the ribbon radiator a 2-el. beam, and now talks about a 3-el. Yagi. Rx set-up is a 6J6 s.e.o. converter into a Command 3-6 Mc. rx. 2PU, Rose Bay, puts out a nice 2 mx phone signal over these Eastern Suburbs. 2ZQ might be persuaded to try out his 522, even though he thinks the QTH hopeless for 2 mx; try it Fred, you'll be surprised.

Was just about to put the "baby to sleep" when Ernest 2ASE came to light obligingly with a little gen. Says that 2AVQ, Maroubra, is heard quite a lot on 40 mx; Bob has commenced with low power, but has worked nearly all States. Ern says the old Amateur spirit isn't dead or dying. Another one heard of around Bondi is Roy 2TH who is only too happy to help get the gear going for a puzzled tyro. Heard that a new VK2Z will soon be on the air on 2 mx in the Bondi area, and it is about time anyhow that Ern 2ASE put some r.f. into that three over three beam at North Bondi. Understand that his XYL threatens to buy him an electric train to play with instead of radio if he doesn't get a move on. 2ASE has a nice quota of gear for 2 mx with a tx finishing up with an 815, and one of those famous G2IQ converters employing push pull 6J6s throughout. With the latter, Ern has heard 119 2 mx stations including Forbes, Canberra, Young and Newcastle, and by no stretch of imagination can Bondi be considered a cracker v.h.f. DX location. Ask Alf 2CE just what he thinks about it! 2ATA is heard back from Lord Howe Island, in his Randwick locale, and using a modest 10w.

NORTH COAST AND TABLELANDS ZONE

Zone Officer Noel Hanson is waiting to get any bookings for the Convention next Easter, and is meanwhile deploring the lack of notes from this large area. Noel did a little operating in the recent Contests, but results were not so bright owing to conditions. In a tour around, Noel gleans that it is possible 2XO will soon be located at Coffs Harbour; ex-2JK looks likely to take out his call again in the future. 2APB still coming up again, but busy with other things at present. A visit was made to 2AWG at Boambee while on tour.

The Eight Hour Week-end Convention was held at Urunga, quite an unofficial affair, but much of interest was discussed in regard to the coming Convention next Easter. Those present were 2ACU, 2AVG, 2JC, 2ADT, 2ZX, 2AHH and Norm Moody from Coonamble. Much rain has been falling in the North Coast region of late, and we hope that no trouble has been experienced. Conditions have been poor and so, in the absence of correspondents, it is difficult to get notes through. See what you can do fellows.

HUNTER BRANCH

The lecturer for the evening at the October Hunter Branch meeting was Len McMahon, 2AC, and his subject was "Crystal Filters." The 27 members and visitors present were shown by circuits and demonstration equipment the manner in which to produce efficient crystal filters, so if any member present has not now got an efficient crystal filter he has only himself to blame. The congratulations of the Branch were extended by the President Lionel 2CS to Jim 2ZC on his being the eighth VK to obtain the Worked All SM Award. This award has only come to two VK2 stations, both of which are members of the Hunter Branch. Keith 2DG was the other W.A.SM winner.

During the week-end October 30-31, three Hunter Branch members made the trip to Tumut, these being 2OT, 2XT and 2AOR. Bill and Les travelled by car to Sydney and joined 2OT and 2EO, in whose jalopy the journey to Tumut was completed. During the Saturday night entertainment, Max won the Pick a Box competition, a gallon jar labelled "worcestershire sauce," but alleged to contain furniture polish, but on sampling the contents it was found to be a very palatable liquid. No success was had by the Branch gang in the Hidden 144 Mc. Tx Hunt held on the Sunday morning due entirely to the signal not being heard on the rx's in use by the participants, however on the Sunday afternoon, using 2EO's call and power supply, Bill's tx and Max's rx and the vee beam used by the Hunter Branch team in the last National Field Day, they were successful in winning the Scramble with a total of 13 stations worked, 12 of them DX in six countries on 14 Mc. c.w. After presentation of prizes, the Hunt on 144 Mc. was held. Dave, Max and Bill, with Les, left Tumut at 5.50 p.m. on Sunday night and arrived back in Newcastle at 4 a.m. Monday.

Jim Thompson, 2AHT, is the newest recruit to the Hunter Branch, having only received his license during the last month. Jim has been busy knocking over the DX on 20 mx c.w. Taree Bill 2AEY has been holidaying with Syd Daniels for three weeks and Bill picked up from 2ASJ the gear which was out of operation, soon to be fixed by 2XY. Leo 2QB is making an absorption type wavemeter-monitor and is only awaiting a germanium diode to complete same.

There will be no Hunter Branch meeting in December. The Branch Social and Xmas Party being held in lieu of the meeting. This Social will be held at the Charlestown Institute at 8 p.m. and all Amateurs and Associates and their families are invited to attend. Don't forget the date and the location.

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VICTORIA

The Senior Division held their meeting on 3rd October at the usual place. The chair was occupied by the President, Gordon Dennis, who very smartly moved through the official business for the evening. The Federal Councillor was talked out of giving his report by a piece of hanky-panky which will be mentioned later. Everybody appeared most anxious to let the v.h.f. boys have a go, so they could learn what all the bits and pieces of gear were for. But still Fred had not given his report. In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary read his report for him. Sufficient to say the Division is in a healthy financial position. We still had not heard Fred's report. This obviously called for drastic action, so nothing daunted, Len 3LN decided to show these Federal types a thing or two. Advancing bodly to his mobile 144 Mc. gear, which was set up in the hall, he called 3YS mobile, finishing the call with the remark, "You don't want to make a report do you Fred?" Fred's voice from the back of the hall with "Alright, I can take a hint" or something similar was too much for Len. He collapsed heavily into the nearest chair. Loud and long were the laughs.

Eventually order was restored and the meeting handed to Herb 3JO who described the demonstration planned. He made apologies for only having 144 Mc. gear on show, but blamed it onto the habituees of the other bands for not co-operating. Herb, I hang my head in shame ,but here I must speak for those of the 288 Mc. gang who were present. Not one of us has at present, any complete gear for the band. However, if it is any solace to you, we have found similar effects with mobile equipment, that you fellows get on 144 Mc. We can also tell you how to overcome some of those troubles, but it might spoil your fun.

Although everybody enjoyed the demonstration with the mobile and fixed equipment, 3LN (that man again) stole the show with his beam construction display. This was something that could quite easily have taken up a whole night. This was something on which I would have enjoyed asking questions (having spent many hours doing the same experiments in the backyard), but an attack of laryinj—larry—well I'd lost my voice, kept me silent. This loss of voice gave my friends (???) much amusement and they will be suitably dealt with later.

The Happy Wanderer, Bud Pouncett, now 2AJQ, was with us for the evening, as were 2QI and 3AIS. These gentlemen were given a welcome as only VK3 can do. You don't believe me? Well ask 5PS.

Amongst the new members we have 3EQ, 3AIN, as full member, and Messrs. Ackland, Lane, Morris, Thomas and Poynter. Welcome all, and apologies to the gentlemen omitted, but I can't read my own writing.

It was announced during the evening that Bob Duncan, operator at 3RI, had passed away earlier in the day. His many friends on the higher frequencies will sadly miss him.

In the past, the practice here has been to leave these notes to the last minute, and do just enough to fill up any odd corner left after the scribe from the sub-branch over the border had a go. Well VK5 gets the R.D. Trophy and in accordance with the threat, they also get the "blue pencil." Come what may, this month I'm having three and one half columns and Pansy gets whatever is left over. Alright Ron,

you can put the s.w.l. notes in with mine! That gives us four columns. Whacko!!

Once again there is a moan about QSL cards not being available. I'm not taking sides in this affair, but I would like to remind those who are complaining that the Bureau is manned by voluntary workers and there is a terrific amount of work involved. If for some reason or another these fellows cannot get in to a meeting with the cards, what about offering them some assistance. Possibly if they had to spend less time sorting the things, they could then find time to come to the meeting, or if they can't, maybe one of you would like to bring the pasteboards in for them. The ball is now in your corner. May I suggest you start by reading the Federal Contest Committee Notes on page 19 of November issue.

I hate having to refer you to the writings of my "Bosom Friend" (Bosom Friend—there must be some tie up between that expression and the advert that went with the notes he had in the press, but for the moment it eludes me), but it contains some darned good advice. Ouch! That sure hurt. Now Pansy is in this discussion, it is to be hoped that the VK5 Council can see through his diabolical scheme to avoid paying his subs. Bet he had himself in mind when he wrote about the oldtimers last month. Whilst I'm in a betting mood, I've a pair of dud 807s (and they sure are dud! He's off the air now—Ed.) that say he won't name the source of my copy of the "Advertiser" in the first fifty he selects.

I hear there is keen rivalry between 3SX and 3AHC in the shack-painting contest. Russell favours a different colour for each wall, whilst Harold settled for all walls green and a yellow ceiling; or is it other way round? Personally, I like "cement sheet grey" edged with "spider-web white" for the walls, and "bare iron blue" for the ceiling. In other words, "what use is a shack if you can't make a mess in it?"

The Technical Editor has saved up his salary from "A.R." for the last three months and invested in a shiny, new vehicle. Surely Sir, you do not intend to mount loops, beams, etc., on this shiny piece of "chicken bait." Anent the note in last month's issue (Pansy is now busy looking up "anent") the Hon. Fed. Sec. asked permission to go on the air this month. When I granted his request, I forgot he would be taking time off this month for the Dinner and the Convention. Federal matters will, therefore, be held in abeyance until December. What's that Doug? You're going on six weeks holiday then. Remind me to get on the school teaching racket some time.

That hard working body whose names are listed on page one, never seem to blow their own trumpet so I'm taking it on my own shoulders to do a bit of blowing for them. On my calculations they devote something like 150 manhours per month of their own time in getting the magazine out. More often than not they work until well after midnight on the job, and at present they are flat out looking for ways and means of improving the mag. If anybody has any suggestions to make, drop a note to the Editor. I can assure you it will be acknowledged, even if I have to do it myself. Even more important is the flow of technical articles, without which there can be no mag. at all. In this regard, I would especially draw attention to the piece on page 17 of last month's copy concerning special issues. What about it fellows?

80 METRE TRANSMITTER HUNT

The 80 mx Tx Hunt held on Sunday, 17th October was a most interesting one. It certainly had the boys well and truly baffled. Only one competitor, Reg 3ZAD arrived on the location without opening his sealed envelope. A fairly weak signal came on the air at 2.30 p.m. and this fooled all the competitors into thinking that the tx must be hidden quite some distance out from the city, and saw most of them setting off in various directions heading well away from Melbourne. However, to everyone's surprise the tx, which was hidden by Eric 3ADU, was located in the Fitzroy Gardens in East Melbourne.

After about three-quarters of an hour the somewhat crestfallen competitors started to turn up at the Gardens with opened envelopes, but were informed that the tx had not yet been found and so then the fun started. Eric then let the wives and non-competitors into the secret. He had hidden the tx in a pram, complete with cushion, shawl and storm cover and had a most sedate married couple wheeling the pram around the gardens. The aerial was wound around inside the pram and this accounted for the weak signal at the start. As can be imagined, the boys' field strength meters were giving very unusual signals as the pram was wheeled up and down the Gardens, at times making a complete circle around them. It was at least an hour later before Laurie 3ALY plucked up enough courage to ask to see the baby.

OBITUARY

BOB DUNCAN

Members of the Victorian Division of the W.I.A. were shocked to learn of the sudden passing at a Private Hospital in East Malvern of Bob Duncan, of Murrumbeena, on 2nd November, 1954, at the age of 59 years.

Bob was the Secretary of the Victorian Railways Institute Radio Club, VK3RI, for the past ten years and a most energetic worker in the interests of the Club and Amateur Radio.

Although Bob was not a licensed Amateur, his untiring efforts are reflected in his Club activities, and his cheery voice from VK3RI was a tradition on 50 Mc. and latterly on the 288 Mc. bands.

He leaves a wife, three daughters and one son to mourn the loss of a husband and father. We extend to them our deepest sympathies in their sad loss. A large number of friends attended the funeral at the Springvale Crematorium.

In private life, Bob was a Class "A" Signalman in the Victorian Railways, a prominent Freemason, and a First World War veteran.

However, it was one of the funniest Tx Hunts ever experienced by the onlookers, as they watched the amazed expressions on the boys' faces as the meters gave what seemed to be very screwy signals when the pram passed within a few feet of them and it also caused great amusement to the onlookers to see the boys stepping most politely out of the way of the pram. The Hunt was attended by 46 of the gang, most of whom had a picnic tea together by the river at Studley Park after the Hunt had concluded. Congratulations to Eric for a most enjoyable afternoon and also congratulations to the married couple who wheeled the pram and who, somehow, managed to keep a straight face during the whole of the afternoon; they didn't give a thing away. Thanks Phyl.

Our heroes, the 3VZ/3IE combine, really fell down. They actually had to open their maps to find the location. To get there they covered something like 25 miles, all the time vowing and declaring the tx was not on. Anyhow, they eventually reached the Gardens and unloaded field strength meters and other highly secret devices they use. Extremely strong signals were present, but had a bad habit of moving around, now here, now there. Jack, always the gentleman, kept politely stepping out of the way of the lady with the pram, who always seemed to be barging into him just as the signal was becoming stronger, thus upsetting his carefully compiled calculations. After 30 minutes of this he decided to get in the lady's good graces, by asking if he could see the baby. That baby showed more signs of radio activity than Rum Jungle. It was also a very rum baby, consisting of a Type 3 and battery.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1st December, at the usual place. A film night has been arranged and you are asked to bring along the XYL or YL (not sure that the phrasing is correct, but you know what I mean) and make a night of it.

CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE CONVENTION

It is my endeavour to carry on the good job that has been done by our predecessors in this field. Our Annual Convention was held on 10th October at Reed's Lookout in the Grampians and it was a great show. A number of visitors were welcomed from neighbouring zones; those present were Lyn 3ARL, Melbourne; Bob 3IC, Geelong; Bill 3AJU, Red Cliffs; John 3AGD, Dunkeld; Kevin 3AKR, Westmere; Neil 3HG, Coleraine; Ray 3ATN, Birchip. Locals included 3AFO, 3NN, 3DP, 3TA, 3ARM, 3ATR, 3EF, 3XC, 3AGR, 3AKP, 3AKW, XYLs, YLs, junior ops. and two s.w.l's Geoff Oaks and Vic Maddern.

After a picnic lunch a Scramble was held resulting in John 3AGD and Neil 3HG sharing the prize. The 2 mx activities were not very successful as no signals were heard and the power pack of the tx decided to take the afternoon off.

The meeting resulted in the following office-bearers being elected: President, Mr. Trev. Rodda, 3ATR; Vice-President, Mr. James Farrer, 3DP; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Kinsella, 3AKW. We were sorry that Alan 3HL was unable to be present, as he had not quite recovered following his rather serious accident some months ago; anyway we wish you all the best Alan and hope that you will soon be 100 per cent. again.

In future the zone hook-ups will begin about 2000 hours in the 80 mx band.

NORTH EASTERN ZONE

Chas 3ACW was unfortunate in having to take part in operations connected with the tragic aircraft accident at Mangalore on 31st October. Doug 3IJ left Mangalore on 8th October to take up his new appointment after some leave. Incidentally, we are pleased to hear from Rex 3UR from time to time. Keith 3JC is understood to be devoting his spare time to house building now, as Stan 3AGT was some time ago. Alan 3UI is on the v.h.'s., but Ken 3KR is working the DX on 20 mx. Des 3BP is thinking of v.h.f. and also trying for some DX on 20 mx. Opportunity has not offered a contact with Peter 3APF lately, neither have Les 3ALE, Johnny 3ACK, nor Alex 3AT been heard and reliable information has it that Murray's (3HZ) many other interests keep him busy. Jim 3JK is not down in the notes this month. B.c.i. cramps the style of Howard 3YV on 80 mx. Steps will have to be taken to ascertain what Jack 3AKC does in the way of Amateur Radio now. 3XU was noted in the list of changed addresses in last month's call sign amendments.

Lex 3AIL was heard on 80 mx one afternoon recently, but Jack 3PF and Vic 3ABX have not been noted, and, although a little has been heard of his principal "off-sider," nothing is available of Hugh 3AHF himself or his radio

activities. Syd 3CI was noted one day sitting on the door-step of his shop. Col 3WQ is busy, as usual. Henry 3HP was heard some time ago, but it is not known how Ron 3AQG is getting on nowadays. The time and frequency to get on to Tom 3TS and George 3GD has not been discovered yet, and some way will just have to be found to contact Des 3CO now. Frank 3ZU keeps in touch with Amateur Radio, but it is understood that he is not on the air again yet. It has not yet been advertised how Associate Vern got on with his A.O.C.P. exams. and Associate Clarry regrets that he cannot give Amateur Radio very much thought, also it is regretted that again it has not been possible to hear of Associate Jim.

EASTERN ZONE

The Eastern Zone Convention was held at the home of Graham 3QZ at Traralgon on 6th and 7th November. About 28 members, XYLs, junior ops., and visitors were present. Alf Mackrell is the new Zone President, whilst David 3DY remains as Secretary.

On Sunday a visit was made to the A.P.M. at Maryvale where a most interesting inspection of the pulp and paper making industry was made, thanks to the work of Graham 3QZ, Doug 3DE and members of A.P.M.

There is not a great deal of activity around these parts, although some members are starting to take an interest in 144 Mc. Stan 3ZAB is already on that band. Ossie 3AHK and David 3DY are showing off new jalopies to all and sundry. The November meeting is scheduled to be held at Bairnsdale, where a film night will probably be held.

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QUEENSLAND

Are you, as a member of the VK4 Division, satisfied with the way this Division is functioning? Do you think the Council is conducting the affairs of this Division as it should? Could you as a member suggest how it could improve the activities of the Division? If you, as a contributor of your annual subscriptions to the Division, have any doubts on these matters, we of the Council should very much like to hear of them, and there is no better place than at the general meetings.

The Council, mostly a hard bitten lot, after years and years of service, would willingly step down and let a more able and virile Council take over. As you must agree, after lengthy terms in office one gets stale and lacking in ideas. Fresh faces means fresh ideas, and fresh ideas means more interests and activities for you. It must seem apparent to the casual observer, by the gradual dwindling attendances at our meetings, that you either have tremendous faith in your Council, and how it runs your affairs, or you are in such a state of lethargy you couldn't care less. If it is a case of couldn't care less, why? If it's the Council, it is in your hands to do something about it. If it's a case of lack of interest in Amateur Radio, remember we have a duty to all Amateurs to keep the bands active, as it has been noted how our inactivity has, and will, give an excuse to commercial interests to move in and eventually crowd us out as is happening in the 7 Mc. band at the present time.

It comes to my ears many times, how often one will call CQ and no answer, but let a flicker of DX appear and the dog piles begin. Maybe that chap calling CQ would like a check on his gear or some information that you, as a fellow Amateur, would be able to put him on the right path with. Is it in the Amateur spirit to sit idly tuning the knob waiting for the elusive DX, which you have probably worked before, and ignore the local chap from whom a friendship may develop to your mutual benefit, and to stay away from the meetings of your Division and criticise it for its shortcomings? Remember an active Amateur is a bulwark against the inroads into our bands, and an active member in your organisation means a stronger organisation, and a stronger organisation means a louder voice in the affairs of Amateur Radio and International band allocations.

We as a fraternity must strengthen our organisation, we owe it to those who have fought to retain the bands we have and we owe it to those who may follow us to protect our bands from the inroads of commercialism. So be active, help the other fellow, attend your meetings, and give your support to where it is so badly needed in the ranks of the Amateurs.

We of the Council would like to hear and see you at the meetings, otherwise our energy and time has gone for nought and we might as well take up tiddlywinks.

Our October meeting was so poorly attended that it was a waste of money hiring the hall, though some good ideas were put forward. One of these is an innovation for the Christmas "Do," which we hope to hold a week or so before Christmas, so keep it in mind. Another was the formation of a listeners' group, and a further idea was on the admittance of limited license holders to full membership.

Contrary to what I've said previously, our membership continues to grow, and a visitor to our meeting, Paul 4UJ, submitted an application for membership. The tape recording on grid dip oscillators over 4WI was very well received and we have quite a few letters from country Amateurs on their appreciation of it. We hope to be able to put on quite a few when we are able to get our recording facilities going properly. Some of these subjects should be enlightening and of interest, as we have available some good lecturers and a wealth of subjects at our disposal.

Talking of disposals, seems as if what is being offered for sale these days is of no use to the Amateur or the prices are so ridiculous it would be uneconomical to purchase anything.

Reverting to the Xmas "Do" again, Bill 4YA has donated £1/1/- for prizes to participants in a contest we will be running that night.

Conditions show that the short path to Europe has been open for quite a while at nights, but not too many VK4s are heard working. Heard Chilla 4SD on c.w. getting amongst them and Vince 4VJ on phone. Frank 4ZM and Bill 4YA always ready for a local natter, and are there most nights.

Congratulations to the VK5 Division on bringing the R.D. Trophy back from the West. I guess the VK5 scribe, "Pansy," is feeling very smug about it all. I only hope we, here in VK4, can do the same, it takes a little support from all and it's about time the VK4 letters were inscribed on it. So as a thought—

Many a man's endeavours have gone for nought
For lack of his fellow man's support.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The monthly meeting for October of the VK5 Division (known as the "Division of the year!") was held in the clubrooms to the usual good attendance of members and took the form of a "buy and sell night." Dougal 5BY was the master of ceremonies, as Ross 5DW was unexpectedly absent. These buy and sell nights are held four times a year and therefore it is becoming increasingly difficult to write anything that is new or interesting about them. They still seem to be as popular as ever, they still manage to bring good prices for what to some of us seems like a lot of junk, and best of all they still manage to swell the Divisional funds by quite a respectable amount, which, after all, is only another way of saying that the members secure the benefits of the buy and sell nights eventually, so what more can be said.

Very little general business was transacted although Luke 5LL did bring up a little discussion when he queried certain statements made over the Divisional Sunday morning broadcasts concerning the earlier scores of the Remembrance Day Contest. The outcome of the discussion was that no individual VK5 scores in any contest were in the future to be broadcast over the official station 5WI. Incidentally, the operator of this station, Charlie 5ON, only broadcasts what he is told to broadcast, and naturally no reflection on him was intended by the discussion. The writer of these notes, and in fact any member of Council, only perform their duties at the direction of Council, the members of which must accept the responsibility at all times. It goes without saying that at times statements or broadcasts might seem like sticking one's neck out, but you can take it from me (probably the worst offender) that the matter has been before at least a majority of Council. Should any member of Council act on his own initiative, and put his foot in it, then he would not know what hit him until he heard the whistle. Believe me, I know from experience!

Among the welcome visitors were Wally 5DF from Port Lincoln, Reg 3MZ minus his handbell, Horrie 2BP ex-5WB, H. Gillard, R. Gillard, and G. Taylor. There were several names in the visitors' book which could not be deciphered. However, to all these gentlemen we say welcome and come again, we like you to visit us, because the visitor of tonight is the member of tomorrow—we hope! Incidentally, I wasn't very happy with the laugh that Reg 3MZ greeted me when he heard my call sign at the introduction. Could it be that a certain ex-VK5 in VK3 is disrespectful? I am in the process of thinking it over.

As mentioned earlier, Wally 5DF was at the meeting and he gave me a slight resume of conditions and the activities of the members over at Port Lincoln. He himself has little to report regarding his activities on the air on account of the prevailing poor conditions, but he manages to listen to the 5WI session each Sunday morning despite the fact that they are received mostly with difficulty. It was good to see Wally at the meeting and he seemed to be enjoying himself renewing acquaintances with the boys that he used to contact when he was at Kadina. Hope to see you again soon OM.

5VJ has been very busy in his new business at Port Lincoln, so busy in fact that he has not had time to keep his schedules with 5DF. 5LT is now well settled in his new home and when I asked Wally what had become of the beam that hit the headlines some time ago, he said that it was still lying down against the fence awaiting a favourable opportunity to be erected. A couple of chaps in Port Lincoln, Joe and Don, are always interested in having a listen to the VK5 Divisional tapes when they arrive, but that is as far as they have got toward Amateur Radio. It is a pity that conditions are so bad over there at the moment, as even the listeners are giving it away, and we can't expect to interest them in our hobby if they can't even hear anything of value. Never mind, it won't always be as bad as it is at the moment, I hope!

Notice that Roy 5AC is bobbing up occasionally at the meetings and he is always more than welcome. The call sign will indicate just how much of an oldtimer he is, and we point to him with pride in VK5 because he is one of the few oldtimers who have retained his membership in the W.I.A., although not as active as we would like him to be on the air.

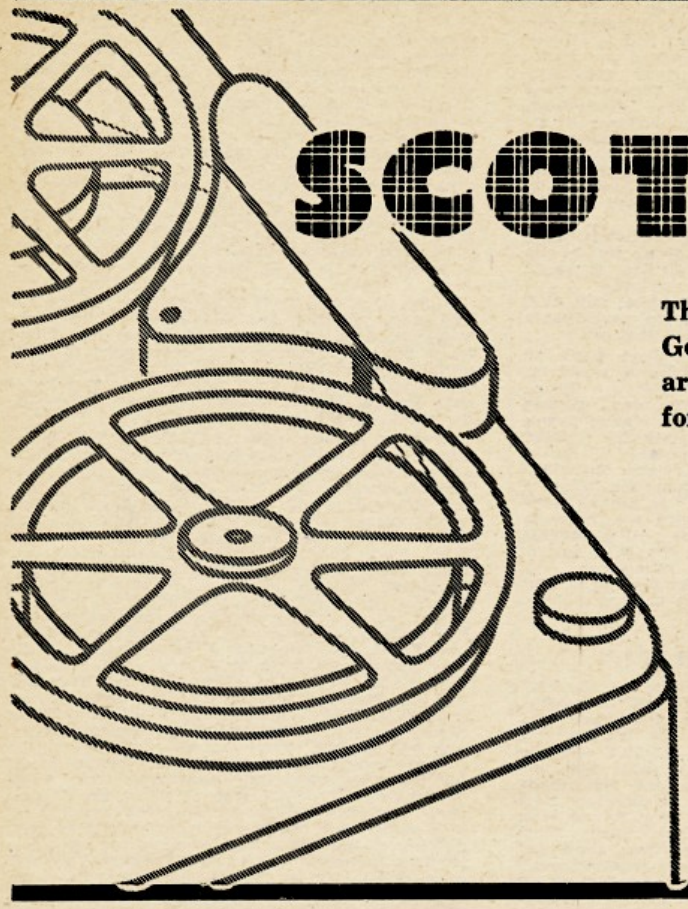
Received a short note from Frank 5MZ who surprisingly enough has just returned from VK3 after having had a splendid week with the Preston gang. Jim 3LM took good care of Frank, leg in plaster notwithstanding, and quite a convention was held in the foyer of the "Victoria" on the Saturday morning with Jim 3LM, Russ 3AIX, Reg 3MZ, Chris 3JR, and Frank 5MZ. Russ held the floor with his stories of flying saucers although if all is to be believed, everybody did their share of talking. It was rather strange that Frank decided to pay Reg 3MZ a surprise visit, and Reg decided to pay Frank the same thing, which meant that they passed each other at Kaniva, each unaware that the other was so close. Anyway they all had a perfect contact on the air. Frank 5MZ from 3LM, 3MZ from 5JO, and 3AIX from 3MZ, excuse me my head is spinning like a top, anyway you get the idea.

Frank asked me to thank the Preston gang for the wonderful time that they gave him, particularly Jim 3LM who provided the transport, carried the luggage, etc., and apparently took good care of Frank's plaster leg, to say nothing of the joint effort in repairing his microphone which his XYL accidentally knocked over. All this only goes to prove that the true Amateur spirit still exists and makes our hobby so worthwhile, to say nothing of proving that State boundaries disappear under its mellowing influence. Long may it reign.

Under ordinary circumstances this month, I would have made myself quite obnoxious by now in these notes concerning VK5 winning the R.D. Contest, but to tell the truth, in common with the rest of VK5, I am somewhat stunned with surprise at the news. So long have we been saying that our chances of ever winning the contest were remote, that we have accepted it as a foregone conclusion. We all realised that our top six competitors had done a wonderful job, although apparently we did not fully realise just how wonderful it was. VK6 and VK5 were so close together throughout the checking, that even after the re-check, and the re-check of the re-check, we still could not see our beating VK6. However, we have won, and we are very pleased and proud. We thank all the other States for helping us to achieve the honour of winning, we hope that next year we may be able to help another State to win, and last but not least, we are proud to be the winners of a contest that has for its object the honouring of our fellow Amateurs who paid the supreme sacrifice. Pardon me whilst I retire and straighten my halo. Tricked you all, didn't I?

Jim 5FO, who holds the imposing office of Contest Manager in VK5, was reported this month as heading north with his false beard flowing in the wind. He also had many copies of contest logs strapped to his back and was noticed to flinch whenever anybody mentioned Remembrance Day Contest. Never mind Jim, you can always be assured of a contact in VK5 at least. Seriously though, he did an excellent job and can share with Reg 5RR the praise which always goes to those who take on a difficult job and do it well, and I don't mean any disrespect to the other able members of the Contest Committee.

"QST" for September carried a photo of five of the leading members of the VK5 Division, and I include the name of the late Hal 5AW in this respect because his name is still fresh in the minds of VK5 as a leader. This photo shows to what depths Doc 5MD will stoop to get his own back on me. He sent this photo to "QST" and told them that the Aga Khan was the name of the celebrity in the middle. Apparently everybody in VK5 thought the same way, judging by the remarks passed to me. I told Rita, I am sorry, I told my XYL of Doc's perfidy, and she said, "Never mind, Petals, don't take



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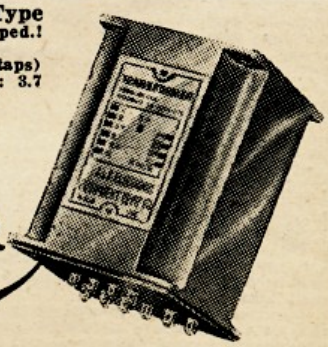

LOOK FOR THE SILVER-GREY TRANSFORMER

any notice of it, I still love every bit of your 4 foot 6 inches," and she lifted me up and kissed me on the brow. By the way, did you cop the sour look on the face of Gordon 5XU, that's what he looked like when he was Treasurer of the VK5 Division and the books wouldn't balance for a half-penny. Now you know why they called him "Shylock." To those of the fair sex who desire a copy of the photo, I can oblige upon payment of £5, or an autographed copy for £10. You can always use it to frighten the children off to bed!

WOOMERA RADIO CLUB

The Woomera Radio Club is embarking upon a series of weekly lectures for the unlicensed members of the club, which started on the 2nd November and have been held every Tuesday since then. Once a month the lecture will be of general interest and will include some of the following: "A look at meteorology," "Hongkong and the East," "Police work in the outback," "Industrial Radiography," and the "Automatic Telephone Exchange." This is a good start for the club and it is hoped that the good attendance of members will continue.

Some strange noises have been heard from the QTH of Ray 5FF and it is believed that the infernal machine referred to in last month's notes is being warmed up for business. John Gluyas is delving into the midst of an R1155 and word has it that when he is really going to town on it, the odd pieces overflow out of his room on to the open spaces of Woomera. Ted, ex-5JE (temporarily), has taken a rest from radio and converted his sun lobby into a workshop, much to his XYL's concern. If he is running true to form there are more wires in that workshop than in the b.b.s.s. and that's saying something. George Trotter, the worthy Secretary, is seen occasionally wandering around stroking his magnificent upper lip fungus and muttering some wild and weird formulae into his beard.

Ron 5FY has little to report on his radio activities this month, but also agrees that this is mostly due to the poor conditions existing on Sunday mornings, this apparently being the time at Woomera when most activity is noticeable at the clubrooms, but he tells me that the rebroadcast of the 5WI session by Reg 5RR on 80 mx has been heard although the local QRM is pretty bad at times. The boys are hoping that 40 mx will open again as good as it did last year about this time, when so many pleasant contacts were had with the Adelaide boys. Thanks for the notes Ron.

Had a short chat with Tom 5TD the other evening, he passes my front door on his way home from toil, and he tells me that he will be spending a month or so living in a caravan in his backyard whilst his QTH is being rebuilt following the earthquake. I gathered from his remarks that the said earthquake was certainly felt by he and his XYL and the damage runs into five or six hundred pounds, which is sufficient indication of the extent of the damage. Tom, as usual, is taking it all in his well known philosophical manner.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Don't forget the Annual Picnic fellows, it will be held on the January public holiday at the Birdwood Oval and a good time is assured for all. This Picnic is intended primarily for the XYL and the children. It is the one time in the year that the OM takes a back seat, and this is sufficient reason for you all to come along. Off the record, very few of the OMs took a back seat at the last Picnic, but it is a good idea to push the members of the family to the front, even if only theoretically. If you are interested and want any particulars, see Joe 5JO who will oblige.

SOUTH EAST AREAS

The monthly meeting of the S.E. boys was held to a good attendance again this month and the main item for the night was the two Divisional tapes on Radio-Sonde and Super-Refraction respectively. The usual round table discussions were held to the mutual benefit of all present, and the mass attack on the goodies at the conclusion of the meeting would have done credit to any flock of grass-hoppers. This monthly get-together scheme is taking on real well and is doing much for the S.E. boys of the W.I.A. Long may it continue.

5TW is at the moment of writing on his annual holidays and it goes without saying that Tom will be cleaning up all the jobs around the place, including a few radio ones at that. 5CH is still in the process of building, although Claude always finds time to keep his schedules on a certain band that I will not mention for fears of reprisals from the v.h.f. correspondent. 5FD has been heard on 40 mx occasionally, but John finds that the prevailing conditions on all bands too much for him. 5KU was a starter in the VK-ZL Contest and gave the c.w. a hiding, but Erg. should be soon forsaking his hobby of radio for that of gliding before long.

5MS has installed a new 100w. modulation transformer and Stuart was another one who entered the VK-ZL Contest. He again was the top scorer for VK5 in the R.D. Contest and thus wins the VK5 trophy, donated by Philips Industries Pty. Ltd. We would like Stuart to attend the Xmas Social this year to give us an opportunity to present the trophy to him, and also to meet him personally. What about it OM? Could you manage it? Incidentally, is it Stuart or Stewart, it seems to change each month! 5JA is a regular attendant at the monthly meetings and from this fact I deduce that the interest must still be there. Am I right John? 5CJ has been away on his annual holidays and managed to get right away from radio, both Amateur and Professional, which is a good idea Col. Hope the family are in the pink OM.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Preliminary arrangements are in hand for the Annual Xmas Social which always takes place on the December monthly meeting night. Quite a number of the members have been asked if they have any ideas to improve this social night, but aside from a couple of minor things, they all seem satisfied with the present set-up. Council are always anxious to improve any of the annual functions, but cannot do much in this direction if they do not get a lead from the membership. Anyway, don't forget the Social, bring along what is usually known as a basket, and the rest of the usual amenities will be provided. It is a good chance to meet the boys and have a chat on conditions, your new rig, or any of the hundred and one things that you like to chat about, but the main thing to remember is that it is a Social and you are there for a good time. What about it OM?

Received a letter card from Les 5UX all the way from Cook, to inform me that the Sept. copy of "QST" turned out to be a Royal edition, with Prince Abdullah Feizal, HZ1AF, on page 60 and overleaf the photo of Aga Khan in the middle of a group of VK5 personalities. He asks me was it taken just before I weighed myself against my weight in Rochelle or Epsom Salts, and also suggests that I will be getting amps. (r.f.) in my pants from all and sundry who see the photo. He also suggests that "Shylock" in the photo looks like as if someone has stolen his pound of flesh. You flatter him Les, he has not got that much flesh! Anyway, you know what you can do OM, and I hope that there is no water in the lake when you do it!!

Reg 5RR tells me that he will read out at the meeting next week a letter of congratulation to VK5, on winning th R.D. Contest, from VK6. This is a gesture that will be well received by the members and goes to show that the VK6 Division are good sports as well as good losers, and will do much to cement the already good relations existing between the two Divisions. We thangyou.

Some are born to greatness, some have greatness thrust upon them, and some, such as myself, are caught up in the throes of greatness, much to their dismay. I refer to my unexpected promotion to the position of Federal correspondent to the Contest Committee, and what is more, placed in a position of seniority above my old "Vive la Barbier" fellow scribe. I find the promotion something of a hindrance in view of my instructions from Council that on such a page there must be no "Ooompus-Boompus" on my part. I suspect it as a trick of the compilation department to cramp my natural style. Oh well, get out my elastic sided boots and quill. I can take it!

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

As a change from Amateur Radio those present at the October meeting of the Division were entertained by a selection of films. The main feature was "Redex Trial 1954," kindly loaned by the Dunlop Rubber Co., with "Standing Waves on Transmission Lines" and "Measurements" as supports; the latter dealing with the standards section of the National Physical Laboratory. A very interesting programme, and as far as the Redex Trial is concerned, the type of country shown is hardly the sort to take the portable gear through! Our thanks to John Watson who operated the projector, and to those responsible for obtaining the films.

The 40 Scramble was held as scheduled on 24th October, but activity was very low compared with previous years. Conditions were not very favorable either, rendering middle-distance signals inaudible during the afternoon session. Those who were on made up for their lack of numbers with their enthusiasm, and quite a deal of excitement was caused by the antics of one or two who engaged in super QRP for the day. Who mentioned Bendix frequency meters or a Class C wavemeter? 6HK, yours truly, carried the day with 23 points closely, followed by 6TY with 22 points.

6KJ paid a visit to the big smoke recently and dropped into the shacks of 6WJ and 6HK. Warren treated Bernie to a demonstration of closed circuit t.v. per flying spot scanner, etc., as a change from describing the usual run of station gear. 6WT took time off and pounded brass for the Scramble. A surprise signal on 7 Mc. was "a real thumper" from 6MK. Should be hearing more of you there Tom now the 32V3 has arrived or do we wait till the T2FD is up and working?

6LM has made quite a comeback after a period of enforced inactivity due to house building. Lionel has been contacted on bands 3.5 to 21 Mc. in the past few weeks. A 3-el. 21 Mc. beam three feet off the ground produced a good report from VK4, so look out when it goes up in the air. 6RT from Narembeen was another signal in the Scramble but not heard since. 6BS heard quite often in Perth working the DX on 21 Mc. 100 mile signals are all wrong for this frequency—must be reflected skip, Basil. 6FL has been getting amongst them on 14 Mc. with the SX24. Conditions on this band must have been really good lately for 6RW has been around! Long time no hear Bob!

6WZ was another country visitor and managed to attend the October meeting. Harry then made a flying visit to Albany—arrived by train at about 1015 hours and was scheduled to depart early in the evening. Busy day OM? Our President, 6FT, was due to make a visit to Port Augusta early in November on business connected with the electronics side of the W.A.G.R. How about filling an item on the lecture programme when you get back Fred? Remember Blake Horrocks, ex-6GS? Blake paid a hurried visit to Perth a few weeks back and dropped in to say cheerio before he returned to Melbourne. It looks as if it will be a long time before the West sees anything of him again. Best of luck OM!

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TASMANIA

I am reporting this month's (November) general meeting from information supplied by 7OM who was in the chair by the way, as I was unable to attend. For the excuse refer to 7AF who was unable to attend for the same reason, the said reason being dressmaking examinations, not for us, of course, but for the respective XYLs. I pass the 7AF sweet shop quite often during my daily grind and it is a common sight to see Bob going through the motions of taking measurements for a frock or skirt or something. You have my sympathy Bob, I'm just the same way.

But to get on with the business, there was quite a good attendance at the meeting and business was as usual kept short as possible. Main item was the forming of a committee to investigate the various sources of interference on the Amateur bands—man-made interference of course. As reported recently, several sources of noise were located and some rectified due to the efforts of a few and the co-operation of the Wireless Branch, and now the forming of a committee to locate these noise sources seems to be an excellent move. The committee consists of 7OM, 7LJ, 7RX, 7RT and one or two others whose names are not known at the moment, and anybody who is troubled by noise interference is asked to contact 7OM or any member of the committee so that the noise may be traced to its source—once located the Wireless Branch will exert the necessary pressure to rectify the trouble.

After the business portion of the meeting a picture show arranged by the lecture committee and by courtesy of the Shell Co. was enjoyed by all. I sincerely hope that the permission of 7AF was obtained before the Shell Co. was approached.

The rest of the news this month takes the form of a number of small items which may or may not be a source of interest and which I have been able to glean by fair means and foul. First of all, congratulations to "Brack" 7BR on another addition to the junior op. ranks —yes it was another son! "Brack" and Len 7LS are keen to get 2 mx gear working so that an attempt may be made to contact Reg 7WN at Tarraleak from the ridge near Gormanston. This should not be too much trouble as the outlook from this particular place is very good, the only obstacles being the King William Range which is 20 odd miles away.

R.D. Contest results show that congratulations are in order for VK5—nice work. VK7 awards go to VK7DZ phone award with 631 points, VK7LJ c.w. award with 345 points, and VK7OM open award with 313 points—congrats boys.

7RM very quiet lately due to much activity of the local and northern theatres installing new wide screen equipment. 7ML and 7CA returned from Mt. Arthur and are now banished to Stanley and Robbins Island for a few weeks. After that they expect to visit Flinders Island—no rest for the wicket! And talking of Flinders Island, Bill 7AK has caught the v.h.f. bug and is building a rig for 144 Mc. Whenever Bill needs a few crystals he just makes an expedition to the hills and catches them raw.

The 7JD rig is slowly nearing completion, recently Tiny borrowed an audio oscillator to check the bandpass of the modulator to see that it cuts off at 3 Kc.—it shouldn't be long now. Neville 7NC seen recently demonstrating a c.r.o. watch timing machine at a local jewellers show—a most intriguing device, too. Congratulations (or should it be condolences) to Peter 7PF who recently got married. Anyway, very best wishes to you both and I hope it doesn't mean a shutting down of v.h.f. activities Peter; the new QTH should be the goods for DX.

NORTHERN ZONE

With the advent of finer weather 7XW is busily brushing the cobwebs from the 2 mx tx for field days, actually Chris has lately built up his own xtal controlled job for the purpose. Last month 7LE, together with 7ML and 7CA, spent a few nights up on Mt. Arthur whilst installing some v.h.f. gear. Almost nightly contacts were made with Launceston, some of them almost went into the hours of the morning. Two VK3 stations were worked by 7LE as well as some of the coastal gang and Flinders Island.

7FM is baby sitting up in Launceston again and has a tx at his disposal to while away the hours. 7LZ had some trouble sorting things out for a while, especially when he was listening on 2 mx. 7AM is still waiting for that new car! What with British dockers' strikes and now Australian wharfies adding to it! 7PF has taken unto himself an XYL. 7LZ went along to represent the fraternity. 7TE has a new rack and power supply so Les 7AM will have to wire in those transformer taps again to keep his rig to the fore in that area.

A very interesting evening was spent in a joint I.R.E./W.I.A. inspection of D.C.A's. D.M.E. and radio installations. To many of us it filled a long felt want to be able to actually see it in operation—that is D.M.E. and not just reading about it. 7PF as usual ably conducted us around the installations. D.C.A., by the way, now has a carrier on the air on 151 Mc. with 1 Kc. mod., so it will be a very useful marker for the Interstate v.h.f. band gang.

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